

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

BROWN TO RESIGN



Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown returns to No.10 Downing Street after reading a statement to the media in London, Monday May 10, 2010, in which he said he intended to stand down as Labour Party leader.

Read more on Page A6

SPORTS NEWS

PAIN IN THE NECK



Golfer Tiger Woods answers a question during a news conference at Aronimink Golf Club, Monday, May 10, 2010, in Newtown Square, Pa.

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US\$ 76.80

↑ 1.69



President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden applaud as Solicitor General Elena Kagan is introduced as President Obama's choice for Supreme Court Justice in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Monday May 10, 2010.

Associated Press

Obama nominates Elena Kagan for Supreme Court

STEVEN R. HURST

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Monday nominated 50-year-old former Harvard law dean Elena Kagan to a lifetime seat on the U.S. Supreme Court, an appointment that could leave his mark on the high court for decades.

If confirmed by the Senate, Kagan would become the third woman on the nine-member court, replacing the consensus-building Justice John Paul Stevens, who is 90 and retiring. Kagan was unlikely to change the political balance of the court but would energize its liberal wing.

The Supreme Court rules on cases that have worked upward through the American court system and are viewed as pivotal to the U.S. Constitution, the basic law that is the foundation for the country's system of government and judicial protections.

Decisions by the court, which has become more conservative with the addition of justices

nominated by former President George W. Bush, have sweeping consequences for American society.

In nominating Kagan, Obama mentioned, for example, the recent and extremely controversial top court decision that overturned a century of judicial precedent by allowing corporations to spend unlimited amounts of money in political campaigns. He has been openly critical of the decision.

Kagan has to be confirmed by the Senate and she is likely to be approved by the Democrat-led chamber. Republicans will grill her on a variety of sensitive issues, perhaps more intently because of approaching congressional elections in November.

Kagan now is solicitor general, the federal government's lawyer who argues for the administration in cases reaching the Supreme Court. She has never served as a judge, and that could open her to questions about her ability to serve as one of the top jurists in the land.

Continued on Page 4



This undated photo provided by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission shows three sizes of "Best Friends" charm bracelets, which were sold by Claire's Boutiques. On Monday, May 10, 2010 the agency announced the recall of about 19,000 "Best Friends" charm bracelets because of high levels of cadmium, which can harm the kidneys and bones and is a known carcinogen. Federal regulators are announcing another recall of children's metal jewelry with high levels of the toxic metal cadmium, and say they're expanding their investigation in an effort to keep to try to and keep dangerous items off store shelves in the first place.

Associated Press

APNewsBreak: U.S. expands scrutiny of kids' jewelry

JUSTIN PRITCHARD

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — U.S. federal regulators are expanding their investigation into children's jewelry that contains the toxic metal cadmium, promising that a recall announced Monday of Chinese-made "Best Friends" charm bracelets will not be the last.

Continued on Page 3

new

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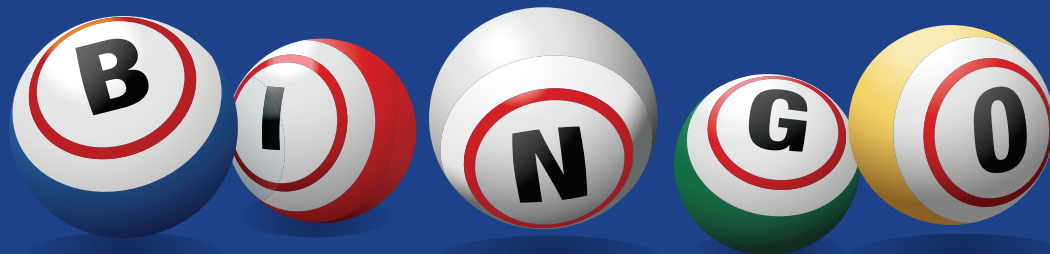
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Drive for vote on Arizona immigration law dropped



Unidentified immigrant rights activists and community leaders engage in non-violent civil disobedience, by chaining themselves together with lockdown PVC devices, in protest of Arizona's recently enacted SB1070 immigration enforcement law, outside the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Federal Processing and Detention Center, on Thursday, May 6, 2010, in Los Angeles.

PAUL DAVENPORT,
Associated Press Writer
PHOENIX — The two proposed referendum drives challenging Arizona's new sweeping law targeting illegal immigration are being abandoned, organizers said Monday. Andrew Chavez, a professional petition circulator involved in one of the efforts, said its backers pulled the plug after concluding they might not be able to time their petition

filings in such a way as to put the law on hold pending a 2012 public vote. Jon Garrido, the chief organizer of the other drive, attributed its end to a belief that the law would have been subject to legal protections under Arizona's Constitution if approved by Arizona voters. The law takes effect July 29 unless implementation is blocked by court injunctions requested under at least three

of the four pending legal challenges already filed by an Hispanic clergy group, police officers and other individuals. Its provisions include requiring that police enforcing another law must question a person about his or her immigration status if there is "reasonable suspicion" that the person is in the United States illegally. It also makes it a state crime to be in the country illegally.

Associated Press

Critics have said the law will result in racial profiling of Hispanics. Supporters deny that and say the law will pressure illegal immigrants to leave the country on their own.

Chavez said his clients, whom he would not identify, launched the effort in the belief that they could put the law on hold until 2012 by not filing petition signatures until it was too late for state elections officials to place a referendum on the November ballot.

However, the backers decided over the weekend to end the referendum campaign when they concluded there still might be a November vote, not giving them enough time to be confident about being able to wage a successful campaign against the law, Chavez said.

The normal deadline for ballot questions is July 1, after which the printing of November ballots and other election preparations typically get under way. The Secretary of State's Office previously acknowledged that a down-to-the-wire referendum filing by this year's July 28 deadline might not give officials enough time to get it on the November ballot. However, the office also said it would depend on circumstances at the time.

Garrido, the chief organizer

of the second referendum drive, said its backers abandoned it after getting legal advice that Arizona's constitutional protections for voter-approved ballot measures would have applied to the law if approved by voters.

Secretary of State's spokesman Matt Benson said Monday the office also believes that the constitutional limitations on possible legislative action would have applied to the law if voters approved it.

The constitutional provisions bar the Legislature from repealing a voter-approved law and only allow legislative changes that further the intent of the original law.

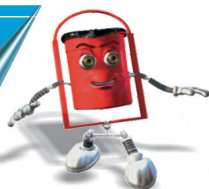
Also, any changes must be approved by three-quarters votes of both the House and Senate.

The four legal challenges filed so far in U.S. District Court in Phoenix have been randomly assigned to different judges. Several major civil-rights groups are expected to file another challenge as early as this week.

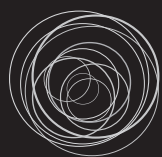
No hearings have been set yet on the lawsuits, which likely will be consolidated into one case before a single judge. That judge would then set a schedule for consideration of the plaintiffs' requests for injunctions and rulings to strike down the law. □



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JEWELRY

Continued from Front Page

“More recalls are in the works,” U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission spokesman Scott Wolfson said.

Those recalls would be the result of voluntary testing by companies, some of which have found troubling levels of cadmium and then reported those results to the agency, Wolfson said. He would not say how many products are under scrutiny.

In addition, in recent weeks agency inspectors working at 10 of America’s largest ports have screened imports of jewelry for cadmium. In one instance, a shipment of Chinese jewelry was turned away.

Word of expanded federal efforts came as the consumer safety agency announced the voluntary recall of about 19,000 “Best Friends” charm bracelet sets made in China and sold exclusively at the jewelry and accessories store Claire’s, which has more than 3,000 outlets in North America and Europe.

“Cadmium is toxic if ingested by children and can cause adverse health effects,” the agency said in its recall announcement.

Medical research shows that cadmium in high levels is a known carcinogen and can harm kidneys and bones.

Agency scientists confirmed independent test results that were first reported in an AssociatedPress investigation in January, which showed high levels of cadmium in the “Best Friends” bracelet.

The recall pertains only to items previously sold at Claire’s; several days after AP’s initial investigation became public, the chain said it would immediately stop

selling them.

While the CPSC did not release its results, testing done for the AP revealed that bracelets sold at Claire’s contained up to 91 percent cadmium by weight, and shed alarming amounts during a test that examined how much cadmium children might be exposed to if they accidentally swallow one of the charms.

Consumers should take the bracelets away from children and return them to Claire’s for a replacement or refund, according to the announcement. The bracelets sold for about \$12.

The CPSC identified the manufacturer as Dae Yeon Industries Corp., of China. Claire’s said Monday that it has stopped further shipments from the company.

The recall was the third prompted by AP’s reporting. Before this year, no consumer product in the United States had been recalled because of cadmium.

“Within weeks of these reports, Claire’s Stores added procedures requiring all of its suppliers to test for cadmium in children’s jewelry,” the company said in a statement. “Claire’s Stores has taken significant steps to ensure that its products meet or exceed all existing safety standards and has responded swiftly and decisively to address the potential risk of cadmium in children’s jewelry.”

The reference to existing safety standards reflects the fact that, unlike with lead, federal law sets no specific levels for how much cadmium is permissible in children’s jewelry.

Federal regulators are operating under generic powers they have to remove hazardous items from

commerce, and Claire’s urged the agency to set clearer standards.

In the meantime, states from California to Connecticut have started to act.

Last week in Illinois, for instance, the Legislature passed a bill to limit cadmium in children’s jewelry that roughly follows a regulatory approach now used for cadmium in toys. That bill is on its way to the governor’s desk.

Representatives of jewelry importers and manufacturers have rejected the idea that children’s metal jewelry is unsafe.

Michael Gale, executive director of the Fashion Jewelry and Accessories Trade Association, has told several state legislatures that are considering strict limits on cadmium in jewelry that if those laws pass, it might be impossible to put any children’s jewelry on stores shelves where those laws apply. In an interview Monday, he endorsed the approach that Illinois took.

At the nation’s ports, federal product safety screeners are now using special guns that shoot X-rays into jewelry to estimate how much cadmium each item might contain. Samples of items with high initial results — dozens so far — have been sent to the CPSC’s headquarters for detailed lab testing.

In one instance, a shipment of Chinese jewelry shed high levels of cadmium when put through the test that mimics how much would enter the body if accidentally swallowed, agency spokesman Wolfson said. That shipment was then “re-exported” — which under U.S. law doesn’t mean it had to be sent back to China. □



A muddy kitten takes cover next to a tree after a tornado swept through the mobile home community of Prairie Creek Village in Slaughterville, Okla., flattening several homes, Monday, May 10, 2010.

Associated Press



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President Barack Obama introduces Solicitor General Elena Kagan as his choice for Supreme Court Justice in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Monday May 10, 2010.

Associated Press

SUPREME COURT

Continued from Front Page

Her lack of a judicial background also means she has no record of rulings as fodder for Republican opponents.

Obama introduced Kagan as “my friend” and called her “one of the nation’s foremost legal minds.”

Speaking at Obama’s side in the White House, Kagan thanked the president for “this honor of a lifetime,” one that she said left her “humbled.”

In a statement issued before Kagan completed her remarks, the lawmaker who will preside over her confirmation hearing, Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy, said, “The Senate should confirm Ms. Kagan before” the end of August, when Americans break for the end-of-summer Labor Day holiday.

The Republican leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell, said his party would make sure there was a “thorough process, not a rush to judgment” on the nomination.

“Judges must not be a rubber-stamp for any administration. Judges must not walk into court with a preconceived idea of who should win,” he said, adding that Republicans would have a vigorous debate on that principle.

Democrats went 15 years without a Supreme Court appointment until Obama chose federal appellate judge Sonia Sotomayor last year to succeed retiring Justice David Souter.

That decision centered much on the compelling narrative of Sotomayor, the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice, who grew up in a New York public

housing project and overcame hardship.

With Kagan, Obama was looking for a nominee to provide leadership and help sway fellow justices toward a majority opinion. The president has voiced concern that the conservative-tilting court is overlooking the effect of its rulings on average people.

In his remarks nominating Kagan, Obama credited her judicial hero, deceased Justice Thurgood Marshall, for “reminding her that behind the law are stories” of ordinary people. Marshall was the first African-American to serve on the court.

Kagan is known for having won over liberal and conservative faculty at the difficult-to-unite Harvard Law School, where she served as dean for nearly six years.

Her background, including

time as a lawyer and a key domestic policy aide in President Clinton’s White House, would give the court a different perspective.

Kagan, who is unmarried, was born in New York City. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Princeton, a master’s degree from Oxford and a law degree from Harvard.

She clerked for federal appeals court judge Abner Mikva, who later became an important political mentor to Obama in Chicago. Kagan and Obama both taught at the University of Chicago Law School in the early 1990s.

Kagan would be only the fourth woman to serve on the Supreme Court, following current Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor and retired Justice Sandra Day O’Connor.

She would be the third Jewish justice along with

six Catholics. With Stevens’ retirement, the court will have no Protestants, the most prevalent denomination in the United States.

Kagan has the high task of following Stevens, who leaves a legacy that includes the preservation of abortion rights, protection of consumer rights and limits on the death penalty and executive power.

Stevens, who was nominated to the court by Republican President Gerald R. Ford, became a liberal bastion as the court turned increasingly conservative with Bush’s appointments of Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito.

Obama praised Stevens as “a giant in the law,” impartial and respecting legal precedence.

Kagan “embodies the same excellence, independence and passion for the law,” Obama said. □

US ties SKorean explosion to NKorean nuclear talks

FOSTER KLUG

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A senior U.S. diplomat on Monday warned that the future of North Korean nuclear disarmament talks will depend on an investigation into a South Korean naval ship that exploded and sank near the border with the North.

Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg’s comments are a show of solidarity with a U.S. ally that has reacted with fury and grief at what many in the South consider a North Korean attack. The investigation complicates already strained diplomatic efforts to restart long-stalled negotiations meant to persuade the North to abandon its nuclear weapons programs.

Steinberg said in a speech at the Brookings Institution think tank that the United States wants a thorough investigation into the March 26 explosion of the Cheonan, which killed 46. He also pledged to “follow the facts where they point.”

“How we proceed is going to depend first on the clarity on the cause of the sinking of the Cheonan,” Steinberg said, but also on North Korea’s willingness to abide by past nuclear disarmament commitments, and, “more broadly, on ending its belligerent and threatening behavior toward its neighbors.” Steinberg wouldn’t discuss what specific actions the Obama administration might take should North Korea be found to have sunk the ship. He said investigators have made no conclusions yet.

“We can’t be indifferent to this event. This is a deep tragedy for South Korea and the people of South Korea are entitled to as full an explanation as possible as to what caused it,” Steinberg said. “Until we have clarity about this, I think it’s important for us to be careful about how we move forward, leaving open any of the possibilities.”

Seoul has not directly blamed North Korea for the sinking, and Pyongyang has denied involvement. Suspicion, however, has focused on the North, given its history of attacks.

South Korea’s defense minister said Monday that traces of an explosive chemical substance used to make torpedoes were found in the ship’s wreckage.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has reportedly said his country is willing to return to the nuclear talks it abandoned in December 2008.

Steinberg said that China, the North’s major ally and the host of the nuclear talks, has played “an important and constructive role” as diplomats discuss the Cheonan sinking.

“We very much hope that during this recent visit of Kim Jong Il to China that they had on opportunity to share with him their concerns about North Korea’s behavior and to make clear that we are watching very closely to see how events unfold in connection with the Cheonan,” Steinberg said.

The two Koreas remain in a state of war because their three-year conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, in 1953. □

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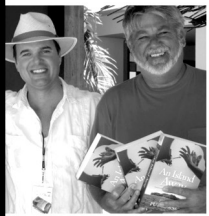
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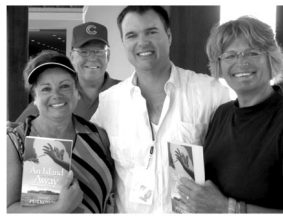
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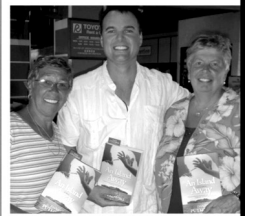
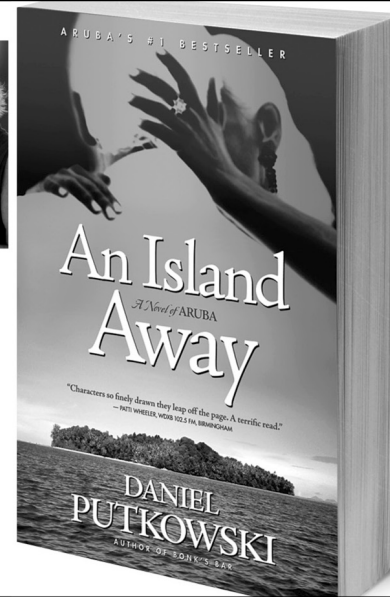
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Nine militia members to stay in jail for time being

By ED WHITE

MIKE HOUSEHOLDER

Associated Press Writers

DETROIT — Nine Midwestern militia members accused of conspiring against the government must stay locked up while prosecutors challenge an order that would release them until trial, a federal appeals court said Monday. A three-judge panel of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said it would continue a temporary stay ordered Thursday while the nine were at the federal courthouse in Detroit expecting to be released with electronic monitors. The court said the government's appeal should be heard swiftly but no deadline for a decision was set. The ruling raised questions about some conclusions reached by U.S. District Judge Victoria Roberts, who last week said the militia members could be released under strict conditions.

Monday's decision was a victory for federal prosecutors, who claim the nine are a risk to the public and should remain behind bars.

"We're grateful for the chance to be able to argue our position," U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade said.

Members of the Michigan-based group, called Hutaree, are charged with conspiracy to commit sedition, or rebellion, against the government and the attempted use of weapons of mass destruction. They have been in custody since late March.

Much of the government's evidence made public so far shows militia members talking about killing police officers and attacking police who turn up for the funeral. No specific plot with specific targets has been disclosed.

Defense attorneys acknowledge the conversations may contain hateful speech and violent scenarios. But the talk

also is peppered with laughter, "childish sounds and noises" and "detail-barren" schemes, lawyers Richard Helfrick and Todd Shanker said in a court filing last week.

A different three-judge panel will handle the government's appeal. The appeals court said it's "impossible to fairly and thoroughly review" Roberts' work until a transcript of an April 27-28 detention hearing is produced.

Nonetheless, the court hinted at some problems in Roberts' order, calling it a "manifest conflict of interest" to have family members act as custodians if militia members are sent home.

"A family member ... would presumably have strong natural incentive not to cooperate with the very government that is prosecuting his or her loved one," judges David McKeague, Helene White and Alan Norris said.

The appeals court said



This combo of eight file photos provided by the U.S. Marshals Service on Monday March 29, 2010 shows from top left, David Brian Stone Sr., 44, of Clayton, Mich.; David Brian Stone Jr. of Adrian, Mich.; Jacob Ward, 33, of Huron, Ohio.; Tina Mae Stone and bottom row from left, Michael David Meeks, 40, of Manchester, Mich.; Kristopher T. Sickles, 27, of Sandusky, Ohio; Joshua John Clough, 28, of Blissfield, Mich.; and Thomas William Piatek, 46, of Whiting, Ind.

Roberts' decision also does not assess each defendant's risk for dangerousness in light of membership in an "extremist organization."

Six of the nine militia members are from Michigan, including leader David Stone

of Lenawee County, two are from Ohio and one is from Indiana.

"All this means is we've got to work hard to get our clients out. We have to continue to fight," Stone's attorney, William Swor, said. □

Woman pleads guilty in neighborhood murder

MARCUS WOHLSEN

TERRY COLLINS

Associated Press Writers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A California Sunday school teacher accused of kidnapping, raping and killing an 8-year-old playmate of her daughter, then stuffing the body in a suitcase, pleaded guilty Monday to murder.

Melissa Huckaby, 29, entered the guilty plea in San Joaquin County Superior Court to a charge of first-degree murder with a special circumstance of

kidnapping.

As part of a deal with prosecutors, all other charges — including two involving rape and lewd or lascivious conduct with a child under 14 — were dropped, according to Assistant Court Executive Officer Sharon Morris.

The initial charges in the grand jury indictment last year would have made her eligible for the death penalty if convicted. Her trial had been set to begin in October.

Morris said Huckaby now faces a sentence of 25 years

to life in prison without the possibility of parole when she's sentenced June 14.

Authorities say Huckaby killed Sandra Cantu, a playmate of her young daughter, in March 2009. A search for the girl ended after 10 days when her body was found stuffed in a black suitcase pulled from an irrigation pond a few miles from the mobile home park where both the child and the defendant lived.

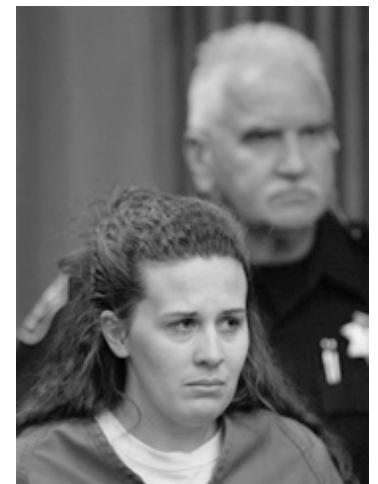
Sandra was last seen on a surveillance camera skipping near her home just five doors

down from Huckaby.

Huckaby also had been charged with previously drugging a 7-year-old girl and a 37-year-old man, whom police believe she had been dating. Those charges also were dropped in the plea deal.

During Monday's hearing, Judge Linda Lofthus maintained the gag order that she had imposed in the case last year, according to Tracy police spokesman Tony Sheneman.

Angie Chavez, Sandra's aunt and the spokeswoman for



In this April 14, 2009 file photo, Melissa Huckaby, 28, listens in a Stockton, Calif., courtroom during her arraignment.

Associated Press the Cantu family, declined comment Monday, citing the gag order. □

UK's Gordon Brown to resign as prime minister

DAVID STRINGER
PAISLEY DODDS

Associated Press Writers

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Gordon Brown made a dramatic bid to keep his beleaguered Labour Party in power after it was punished in elections last week, announcing Monday he will resign by September at the latest even if the Liberal Democrats — being wooed by the Conservatives — decide to join his party in government.

The political theater, played out in front of the iconic black door of No. 10 Downing Street, comes as David Cameron's Conservatives — which won the most seats in Parliament but fell short of a majority — struggled in their attempts to win over the third-place Liberal Democrats.

Brown's party has been willing to entertain supporting the Liberal Democrats' demand for an overhaul of the voting system toward proportional representation, which would greatly increase that party's future seat tallies. But the evening brought a further twist with a counteroffer from the Conservatives — a referendum on a less dramatic type of electoral reform.

While uncertainty prevails, to the displeasure of the markets, one thing appears certain: The career of Brown — the Treasury chief who waited a decade in the wings for his chance to become prime minister — is winding to an end.

Brown, looking statesmanlike but resigned to political reality, accepted blame for Labour's loss of 91 seats in last week's election and its failure to win a parliamentary majority.

No other party won outright either, resulting in the first "hung Parliament" since 1974 and triggering a frantic scramble between Brown's Labour and the main opposition Conservatives to broker a coalition — or at least an informal partnership — with the Liberal Democrats.

"As leader of my party, I must accept that that is a judgment on me," Brown said, offering to step down before the party conference in September.

Brown said Liberal Democrat



Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown reads a statement to the media statement outside 10 Downing Street in London, Monday May 10, 2010, in which he said he intended to stand down as Labour Party leader. Brown said that he will resign - but first hopes to broker a pact with the third-place Liberal Democrats to keep his Labour Party in office as part of a coalition government. Brown said his Labour Party, which came a distant second in Thursday's national election, would begin a leadership contest to replace him as he focused on talks with the Liberal Democrats aimed at breaking Britain's election deadlock.

leader Nick Clegg had asked to begin formal coalition talks with the Labour Party and said he believed their parties might form a center-left alliance. Clegg had previously suggested Brown's departure would likely be a condition of any deal with Labour.

The Liberal Democrats have seemed genuinely open to a deal with the Conservatives — who are less ideologically compatible with Clegg's party than with Labour — largely out of a sense that Cameron won a moral mandate and supporting him was expected by the nation at a time of economic turmoil.

But Brown's statement appeared to give Clegg's party a viable alternative, and real temptation: join a possibly short-lived alliance, remove the unpopular Brown, and pass electoral reform that could transform their fortunes and even banish the Conservatives to the political wilderness.

The day's drama disappointed those hoping for a swift resolution and deepened the post-election limbo that many feared could further undermine confidence in Europe's financial markets. The pound fell nearly 1.5 cents against the dollar after Brown's statement on his future, trading at \$1.4866 late Monday.

Belying morning optimism and buoyant statements by party spokesmen, the Liberal Democrats announced by afternoon that they hadn't yet reached an agreement with the Conservatives on education funding, fair taxation and electoral reform. Then came Brown's offer.

Clegg said the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives had "some very constructive talks ... and made a great deal of progress. But we haven't yet reached a comprehensive partnership agreement."

The Conservatives said their final offer on electoral reform was for a referendum on the "alternative vote" electoral system, under which voters rank candidates by preference and second-choice votes are allocated if no candidate wins 50 percent of the first preference votes. The result could give Clegg's party more seats — but it would not constitute the revolution that proportional representation would. Under proportional representation — widely used in continental Europe — the Liberal Democrats, with almost a quarter of the vote, would have that proportion of Parliament seats. Under Britain's current system they won only 57 out of 650, or just 9 percent of the seats.

Cameron's center-right

Conservatives won 306 seats and Labour 258. Smaller parties took the rest.

William Hague, a senior Conservative lawmaker and Cameron's de facto deputy, said that given that breakdown it appeared unlikely that the Conservatives could form a minority government on their own — a scenario that is allowed but may not survive a no-confidence vote.

He also said voters would not want to see a second unelected leader. Brown was handed the reins from former Prime Minister Tony Blair but was not voted in.

Hague said the Conservatives had offered the Liberal Democrats a full coalition, with Cabinet positions for members of Clegg's team and a pledge not to hold a new national election for at least two and a half years.

Though the Conservatives have offered to hold a public referendum on changing Britain's electoral system, Hague also said his party would campaign to persuade the public to oppose any reforms.

Cameron and Clegg spoke Monday afternoon, but no further meetings are planned at this stage, Hague said.

A Labour-Liberal Democrat alliance would still have to draw on the support of smaller,

marginal parties — including nationalist parties Scotland and Wales and the Democratic Unionist Party in Northern Ireland. But that possibility left some Labour supporters uncomfortable. Former Home Secretary John Reid said such a pact "would be mutually assured destruction."

"If we appear to be snubbing the electorate, and get a coalition of second and third parties and some parties from Scotland and Northern Ireland, I think we will rue the day," Reid told Sky News. Many English voters didn't have a chance to vote for Welsh and Scottish parties.

He said that while such a deal might keep Labour in power a little while longer, it ran the risk of alienating even more voters from the party.

Brown's office said Labour's legislators will meet Wednesday to discuss the status of negotiations with Clegg's party — indicating that Britain may face at least two more days without an end to its political stalemate.

The team carrying out talks with Clegg's party won't include Brown — but will instead be led by Business Secretary Peter Mandelson.

Brown said he hoped a new Labour leader would be appointed at the party's annual convention in September. Foreign Secretary David Miliband and Education Secretary Ed Balls will likely be leading contenders to succeed Brown as party leader. Britain has a record 153 billion-pound (\$236 billion) deficit that many believe the Conservatives would tackle more decisively than Labour. Liberal Democrat spokesman Simon Hughes said a deal was unlikely within 24 hours but predicted "a government by the end of the week."

Brown's announcement signals an end to a political career marked by great promise, considerable achievement and ultimate disappointment.

Brown, 59, spent a decade as Prime Minister Tony Blair's treasury chief, but craved the top job himself and is widely believed to have negotiated a handover years ago. □

In Iraq's bloodiest day of 2010, attacks kill 100

LARA JAKES
REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — A man with explosives strapped to his body blew himself up in a crowd, bombers struck a southern city and gunmen sprayed fire on security checkpoints in attacks Monday that killed at least 100 people — most of them in Shiite areas — in Iraq's deadliest day this year.

Officials were quick to blame insurgents linked to al-Qaida in Iraq for the shootings in the capital, saying the militants were redoubling efforts to destabilize the country at a time of political uncertainty over who will control the next government.

Shiite Vice President Adel Abdul-Mahdi stressed the importance of quickly forming a government that does not exclude any major political group to try to prevent insurgents from exploiting Iraq's fragile security.

"The terrorist gangs perpetrated new assaults today on our people and armed forces," he said. "We call on all political blocs to work seriously for the benefit of the country and ... start to form a national partnership government including all political parties without marginalizing any one."

More than two months after the March 7 election, Iraq's main political factions are still struggling to put together a ruling coalition. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Shiite bloc has tried to squeeze out election front-runner Ayad Allawi — a secular Shiite who was heavily backed by Sunnis — by forging an alliance last week with another religious Shiite coalition. The union, which is just four seats short of a majority in parliament, will likely lead to four more years of a government dominated by Shiites, much like the current one.

Sunni anger at Shiite domination of successive governments was a key reason behind the insurgency that sparked sectarian warfare

in 2006 and 2007. If Allawi is perceived as not getting his fair share of power, that could in turn outrage the Sunnis who supported him and risk a resurgence of sectarian violence.

The relentless cascade of bombings and shootings — hitting at least 10 cities and towns as the day unfolded — also raised questions about whether Iraqi security forces can protect the country as the U.S. prepares to withdraw half of its remaining 92,000 troops in Iraq over the next four months.

The U.S. and Iraq have claimed major blows against al-Qaida in Iraq over the last month — most notably the killings of two militant leaders Abu Omar al-Baghdadi and Abu Ayyub al-Masri in an April 18 raid on their safehouse near Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit.

But U.S. Maj. Gen. Stephen Lanza, the top military spokesman in Iraq, said Monday's attacks show "there is a threat out there that we have to be concerned about, and the threat is still capable."

The violence began before dawn in Baghdad in a series of attacks against checkpoints and patrols, targeting security forces. Gunmen disguised as cleaners used weapons fixed with silencers to spray security forces with bullets. At least 10 people were killed.

Most of the day's casualties were in two Shiite-dominated cities where wounded victims screamed their fury at the government for failing to protect them.

The worst violence hit the Shiite city of Hillah, the capital of Babil province 60 miles south of Baghdad. First, two parked car bombs near a textile factory exploded as workers were leaving the factory around midday, said Babil provincial police spokesman Maj. Muthana Khalid.

Then as rescuers and workers were trying to help the injured, a suicide attacker with explosives strapped to



Iraqis react to an explosion in Hillah Iraq in this image taken from TV Monday May 10, 2010. A suicide bomber blew himself up outside a textile factory in Hillah Monday in a crowd that gathered after two cars bombings at the same spot in the worst of a series of attacks killing tens of people across Iraq, the deadliest day this year.

Associated Press

his body blew himself up in the crowd.

At least 45 people were killed and dozens more injured, according to Khalid and al-Hillah hospital director Zuhair al-Khafaji.

"It was a horrible scene with human flesh and blood on the ground," said Jassim Znad Abid, a taxi driver who lives in Hillah. "I saw dead people, some burned and crying, wounded people on the ground that was covered with pools of blood."

Babil provincial Gov. Salman Nassir al-Zargani ordered flags lowered to half-staff and a three-day mourning period. In an interview with Iraqi state TV, he said he was informed Sunday that the factory was under threat, but cited too many security gaps across Babil to protect all sites he feared could be targeted.

"There are many fragile places especially in the north of Babil... and there are a lot of security gaps there," he said. "So we are facing a daily challenge in Babil."

Hillah has been the site of horrific bombings in the past, including blasts in 2007

that killed at least 120 people and a suicide car bomber in 2005 that killed 125 people, mostly police and national guard recruits.

In another Shiite city, the southern port of Basra, three bombs, including one that targeted a marketplace, killed at least 16 people, hospital and police officials said. Basra has been relatively quiet since the days when Shiite militias allied with Iran ruled the streets; al-Maliki, with heavy U.S. support, routed the militias in 2008.

A pair of bombs struck the small town of Suwayrah, 25 miles south of Baghdad, killing 11. Three different bombings in the town of Abu Ghraib west of Baghdad that killed at least six people.

Twelve more were killed in five separate attacks stretching from the northern city of Mosul to the western province of Fallujah in Anbar province to the Shiite city of Musayyib south of Baghdad. The attack in Mosul killed at least two people near a checkpoint run by Iraqi security forces, Kurdish security forces known as the peshmerga, and U.S. troops.

The joint checkpoints were set up earlier this year under U.S. supervision as a way to get Iraqi and Kurdish forces working together in areas claimed by both the Kurds and Iraq's federal government.

Daily violence in Iraq has eased since the height of the insurgency. But the latest attacks raise fears that the country's barely contained sectarian tensions could once again explode — especially at a time of clouded political leadership. However, there have been few, if any, examples of the retaliatory violence that marked the sectarian conflict just a few years ago and brought Iraq to the brink of civil war.

On Monday, Allawi told reporters he has been trying for days to meet with al-Maliki and begin hammering out a compromise, but to no avail. He vowed to fight attempts to overturn the election results and called for an end to efforts to disqualify some of his Iraqiya coalition's winning candidates.

"We won't stand still if the harm against Iraqiya continues," Allawi said. □

Aquino leads Philippine race on promise of change



Presidential candidate Sen. Benigno "Noy" Aquino III smiles as he holds his ballot in the country's first ever automated Presidential elections, Monday May 10, 2010 at Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac province in northern Philippines. Aquino III whose father was assassinated while opposing a dictatorship and whose late mother led the "people power" revolt that restored freedoms commanded a large lead in the last pre-election polls.

JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press Writer

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— The son of Philippine democracy icons took an early, commanding lead in presidential polls on a promise to begin prosecuting corrupt officials within weeks to restore credibility to the country's graft-ridden government agencies.

Despite computerized counting machine glitches and violence that claimed at least nine lives, election officials hailed the vote as a success in a country where poll fraud allegations have marred previous contests.

Sen. Benigno Aquino III — whose father

was assassinated while opposing a dictatorship and whose mother led the "people power" revolt that restored freedoms — was leading the nine-candidate presidential race with 40.58 percent of the votes from about 57 percent of the precincts, while his closest rival, ousted President Joseph Estrada, had 25.72 percent.

There is no runoff in the Philippines and whoever has the most votes is declared winner.

Aquino's sudden political rise bolstered hopes among his supporters for a clean leadership after nine years of a scandal-tainted

administration that was rocked by coup attempts and protests.

He campaigned on a strong anti-graft platform, promised to start prosecuting corrupt officials within weeks of his election and restore integrity to Congress and the judiciary.

It was only after former President Corazon Aquino died of cancer last August that her son, a quiet 50-year-old lawmaker and bachelor, decided to run, spurred by the massive outpouring of national grief for the leader who ousted longtime dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the 1986 "people power" revolt and restored democracy to the Philippines.

Aquino's closest political lieutenant, former Education Secretary Florencio Abad, said he rode on the crest of a national yearning for an honest leader after corruption scandals under outgoing President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

"This means he really has to deal with the problem of corruption and deal with the people identified with nine years of corruption," Abad told The Associated Press.

"The other thing that he needs to do is to translate the dividends of good governance into direct benefits for the poor — education, health, food, lower prices, jobs, basic services," he said.

Some of Aquino's opponents carried the taint of scandal, all too common in the Philippines. The popularity ratings of Sen. Manny Villar, a real estate developer-turned-politician who was neck-and-neck with Aquino in early surveys, plunged after rivals accused him of using his position to enrich himself and avoid a Senate ethics probe.

Estrada, who largely draws

support from the poor, jumped to overtake Villar as No. 2. The former action movie star was removed from office in 2001 and subsequently convicted on corruption charges. He was later pardoned by Arroyo, and said he decided to run again to clear his name.

Computer problems and campaign-related violence, which has killed more than 30 people in the past three months and an additional nine on election day, were the main concerns in the voting, which officials hope will set a new standard for the country's fragile democracy.

Turnout was 75 percent among about 50 million eligible voters, the Elections Commission said.

"The people came in droves, the turnout was very encouraging. The machines worked more than we expected," said commission Chairman Jose Melo. "I would say it was successful."

For the first time, optical scanning machines counted the votes in 76,000 precincts. A software glitch discovered a week ago nearly derailed the vote. Still, some machines malfunctioned in the tropical humidity, including in Aquino's hometown of Tarlac, north of Manila, where the senator had to wait nearly five hours to cast his ballot.

Election Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal said about 465 of 76,000 machines had problems but that most were replaced.

A restive and politicized military, weak central government, private armies and political dynasties have stymied democratic institutions in the Philippines for generations. Elections often are marred

by violence, and the latest vote was no different.

Among those killed Monday were a retired military officer and a navy enlisted man acting as a congressional candidate's bodyguards in Bacoor township in Cavite province, south of Manila, an AP photographer reported.

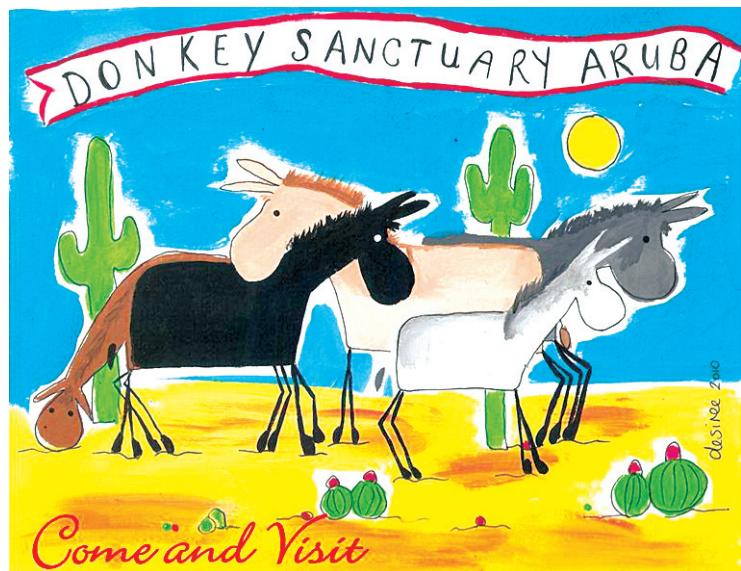
Troops and gunmen exchanged fire in southern Maguindanao province, where 57 people were massacred last year in the country's worst election-related attack, said army Lt. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer. Two civilians also were killed in fighting between armed followers of rival candidates for vice mayor, Ferrer said. About 130 deaths preceded the last vote in 2007.

The country's next leader will have no easy task. He will face multiple insurgencies.

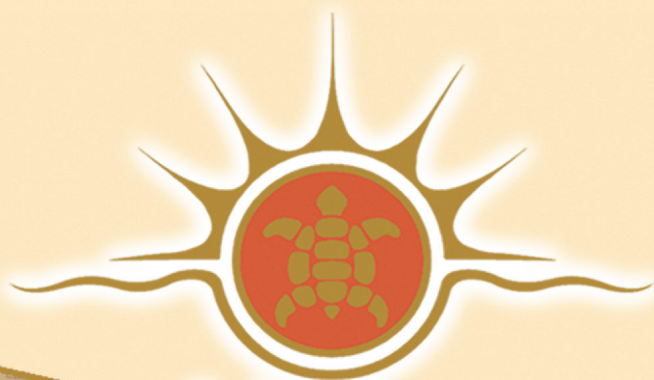
Muslim rebels and al-Qaida-linked militants have long staged terrorist attacks and hostage raids in the south, where U.S. troops have been training Filipino soldiers.

Fighting corruption and other irregularities will be a tough challenge. Arroyo was accused of vote-rigging in 2004 and implicated in several scandals that led to coup attempts and moves to impeach her. Calls for her prosecution have been an important campaign issue. She denies any wrongdoing and ran for a seat in the House of Representatives.

Aquino's campaign returned a family name that has revived poignant memories of the 1986 popular revolt led by his mother. She had inherited the mantle of her husband, an opposition senator gunned down by soldiers at Manila's airport in 1983 upon return from U.S. exile to challenge Marcos. □



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Protesters in Haiti capital demand president's ouster

JONATHAN M. KATZ
Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Acrid smoke filled the air outside the ruins of Haiti's national palace Monday as police fired tear gas to control a crowd of 1,000 people calling for the resignation of President Rene Preval in the largest political protest since the Jan. 12 earthquake.

Trucks filled with riot police rolled behind the demonstrators as they jogged to the palace from a gathering place several miles away and chanted insults at Preval and his wife.

There was an anti-Preval demonstration last week in the coastal town of Jacmel, and many people have criticized the president's low profile in the chaos that followed the earthquake, but this was the strongest showing of opposition to the Haitian leader since the catastrophe. Protesters accused him of using the destruction as a pretext to stay in office beyond his term.

"He is profiting from this disaster in order to stay in power," said Herve Santilus, 39, a sociologist who was laid off a few weeks after the

magnitude-7 quake struck and has not been able to find work since.

Some protesters wrapped the Haitian flag around themselves and carried water to sustain themselves through what was expected to be a daylong protest.

Police shot into the air as people in the crowd threw rocks. Other shots also were fired, but it was not clear by whom. There were no apparent injuries.

"Preval has used the drama that our country went through and turned it into an opportunity for himself," said Claudy Louis, 29, a schoolteacher. "Instead of looking out for the people, he quickly hatched a plan to benefit the small group of people around him, the bourgeoisie." Small bands of protesters gathered in other cities including Petionville, where about a dozen young men played drums and blew horns to get attention.

A couple hundred government workers clutching pick axes and shovels also gathered nearby at the Champ de Mars national mall to demand that the U.S. Agency for International Development pay them money they said they were owed for clearing



A police officer, carrying a tear gas canister talks to demonstrators during a protest against Haiti's President Rene Preval in Port-au-Prince, Monday, May 10, 2010. Police fired tear gas outside the ruins of Haiti's national palace to control about 2,000 demonstrators calling for Preval's resignation in the largest political protest since the Jan. 12 earthquake.

earthquake rubble.

An estimated 230,000 people died in the 40-second quake. Discontent over government policy and the squalor at makeshift camps has increased recently.

Preval announced last week he would stay in office up to three months past the end of his term, on Feb. 7, 2011, if the presidential election is delayed. Officials are

struggling to hold the election as scheduled this fall. The quake destroyed the election agency's headquarters and records and killed or displaced about 1.6 million voters.

"I want to establish stability in this country," Preval said. Parliament approved the measure late last week, though opposition lawmakers called it unconstitutional and

compared Preval to brutal dictators of Haiti's past.

Opposition leaders also are livid about an 18-month emergency period approved by Parliament, during which \$9.9 billion in foreign reconstruction money will be directed by a commission headed by former U.S. President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive. □

Associated Press

Barrier-breaking jazz star Lena Horne dies at 92



FILE -- This is a June 1995 file portrait of singer and actress Lena Horne. Singer Lena Horne, who broke racial barriers as a Hollywood and Broadway star famed for her velvety rendition of 'Stormy Weather,' has died at age 92.

(AP Photo/File)

By VERENA DOBNIK,
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Lena Horne, the enchanting jazz singer and actress known for her plaintive, signature song "Stormy Weather" and for her triumph over the bigotry that allowed her to entertain white audiences but not socialize with them, has died. She was 92.

Horne died Sunday at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, said hospital spokeswoman Gloria Chin, who would not release details.

Quincy Jones, a longtime friend and collaborator, was among those mourning her death Monday. He called her a "pioneering groundbreaker." "Our friendship dated back more than 50 years and continued up until the last moment, her inner and outer beauty immediately bonding us forever," said Jones, who noted that they worked together on the film "The Wiz" and a Grammy-winning live album.

"Lena Horne was a pioneering groundbreaker, making inroads into a world that had never before been explored by African-American women, and she did it on her own terms," he added. "Our nation and the world has lost one of the great artistic icons of the 20th century. There will never be another like Lena Horne and I will miss her deeply."

"I knew her from the time I was born, and whenever I needed anything she was there. She was funny, sophisticated and truly one of a kind. We lost

an original. Thank you Lena," Liza Minnelli said Monday. Her father, director Vincente Minnelli, brought Horne to Hollywood to star in "Cabin in the Sky," in 1943.

Horne, whose striking beauty often overshadowed her talent and artistry, was remarkably candid about the underlying reason for her success: "I was unique in that I was a kind of black that white people could accept," she once said. "I was their daydream. I had the worst kind of acceptance because it was never for how great I was or what I contributed. It was because of the way I looked." In the 1940s, Horne was one of the first black performers hired to sing with a major white band, to play the Copacabana nightclub in New York City and when she signed with MGM, she was among a handful of black actors to have a contract with a major Hollywood studio.

In 1943, MGM Studios loaned her to 20th Century-Fox to play the role of Selina Rogers in the all-black movie musical "Stormy Weather." Her rendition of the title song became a major hit and her most famous tune.

Horne had an impressive musical range, from blues and jazz to the sophistication of Rodgers and Hart in such songs as "The Lady Is a Tramp" and "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered." In 1942's "Panama Hattie," her first movie with MGM, she sang Cole Porter's "Just One of Those Things," winning critical acclaim.

In her first big Broadway

success, as the star of "Jamaica" in 1957, reviewer Richard Watts Jr. called her "one of the incomparable performers of our time." Songwriter Buddy de Sylva dubbed her "the best female singer of songs."

"It's just a great loss," said Janet Jackson in an interview on Monday. "She brought much joy into everyone's lives — even the younger generations, younger than myself. She was such a great talent. She opened up such doors for artists like myself." Horne was perpetually frustrated with racism.

"I was always battling the system to try to get to be with my people. Finally, I wouldn't work for places that kept us out. ... It was a damn fight everywhere I was, every place I worked, in New York, in Hollywood, all over the world," she said in Brian Lanker's book "I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America."

While at MGM, Horne starred in the all-black "Cabin in the Sky," but in most movies, she appeared only in musical numbers that could be cut when shown in the South and she was denied major roles and speaking parts. Horne, who had appeared in the role of Julie in a "Show Boat" scene in a 1946 movie about Jerome Kern, seemed a logical choice for the 1951 movie, but the part went to a white actress, Ava Gardner, who did not sing.

"Metro's cowardice deprived the musical (genre) of one of the great singing actresses," film historian John Kobal wrote. "She was a very angry woman," said film critic-author-documentarian Richard Schickel, who worked with Horne on her 1965 autobiography.

"It's something that shaped her life to a very high degree. She was a woman who had a very powerful desire to lead her own life, to not be cautious and to speak out. And she was a woman, also, who felt in her career that she had been held back by the issue of race. So she had a lot of anger and disappointment about that." □

Music City to rebuild on shoulders of its stars

By CAITLIN R. KING,
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Nashville may be the country music capital of the world, but at a time when its struggling to rebuild from devastating floods, its billing as Music City has never been as fitting. Recording artists from all genres who call Nashville home are responding to the disaster.

Pop star Ke\$ha flew in from New York early last week and saw the damage before her plane touched down.

"I looked outside and I saw lakes, except for in the middle of the lake there would be a roof. I was a little confused," she said in a phone interview. After her mom picked her up, she heard on the radio about the number of animals in need of help, so they went straight to buy 1,000 pounds of dog and cat food and delivered it to a local animal shelter. Ke\$ha feels so strongly about helping Nashville rebuild, she's planning a benefit concert at Limelight on June 16.

"It's my home. I don't know anything else. It's the place I come to help me feel all right and grounded," she said. "This city has helped nurture me as a musician ... I owe a lot to this place, which is why I'm taking it so close to heart and trying to help people realize the magnitude of the situation."

Nine people were confirmed dead and at least 2,000 homes were destroyed or damaged in Nashville by the flooding that struck Tennessee May 1-2. Flood waters also submerged parts of the Grand Ole Opry House and the Opryland Resort as well as bars and clubs in the city's downtown tourist district. About 2,600 people have been left homeless, and thousands evacuated. Damages have been estimated at \$1.5 billion and climbing. Still, despite the devastation, some in Nashville feel that the flooding has been underplayed nationally.

Nathan Followill, drummer for the Grammy-winning rock band Kings of Leon, was



FILE - In this Jan. 23, 2010 file photo, American singer Kesha arrives at the Cannes festival palace, to take part in the NRJ Music awards ceremony, in Cannes, southeastern France.

(AP Photo/Lionel Cironneau, File)

in New York City when he learned about the flood.

"The news here was dominated by the oil spill (in the Gulf of Mexico) and the bomb scare in Times Square so I found out from a phone call. It was heartbreaking to see my city in such bad shape," he said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "Our thoughts and prayers are with all the victims, and we are figuring out the best way for us to contribute."

Fellow rocker and music producer Jack White feels lucky that the building where he physically established his record label, Third Man Records, escaped the flood. The Nashville resident is donating the profits that his record store made on Saturday to flood victims, and on Monday, he and the entire Third Man staff were planning to help with clean up efforts through Hands On Nashville, a volunteer agency.

"It's just one of those things when you're in any kind of community, if an asteroid falls, you all get together and clean it up.

It doesn't matter what it is," said White.

Taylor Swift already has donated \$500,000 to flood relief. She announced the donation last week during a local telethon where stars including Keith Urban, Vince Gill and Darius Rucker performed and helped raise \$1.7 million. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Minn. Democrats want higher taxes for wealthy

By MARTIGA LOHN,
Associated Press Writer

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Legislature's top Democrats pushed Monday to send new income taxes for the wealthiest Minnesotans to a tax-averse Gov. Tim Pawlenty as part of their plan to wipe away a \$2.9 billion deficit.

The \$395 million proposal — unveiled at a morning news conference and rushing toward floor votes in both chambers later in the day — reignited a familiar fight between anti-tax Republicans and Democrats who say the deficit-riddled state needs new sources of cash.

Lawmakers and Pawlenty are hard-pressed to balance the budget before the state constitution requires the legislature to adjourn next week. The state Supreme Court made the crisis more acute last week when it said Pawlenty exceeded his authority last year when he ordered budget cuts without legislators' approval.

With the Republican governor and top legislative Democrats far from reaching a budget deal, Democrats planned to use their large majorities in both chambers to pass the tax bill. House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher said the vote had to be Monday to leave enough time to try to override a veto with GOP help. Top Republicans said their members won't vote to override.

Pawlenty promised to veto the bill, which he said would give Minnesota the nation's fifth-highest income tax rate and hurt small businesses.

"The DFL's proposed tax increase is like Jason in 'Friday the 13th' — it's scary and it keeps coming back," he said in a statement.

Earlier, Senate Majority Leader Larry Pogemiller said he doubted Pawlenty's position had changed.

"I have no reason to believe that he's become flexible or willing to compromise," he said.

The proposal would establish a new income tax bracket for the highest-paid taxpayers. Couples filing jointly would pay a 9.1 percent tax on income topping \$200,000 after deductions and credits. The higher rate also would apply to taxable income of more than \$113,100 for singles and more than \$170,350 for heads of household.

The bill also would roll back \$40 million worth of President George W. Bush-era state income tax cuts for high-income taxpayers a year earlier than scheduled.

Senate Taxes Committee Chairman Tom Bakk said the new taxes would affect 122,000 filers for 2010 taxes payable in 2011. He said 97 percent of that group has taxable incomes of \$250,000 or higher.

The tax plans are part of a deficit fix that includes \$680 million in spending cuts and \$1.7 billion in delayed payments to public schools, largely mirroring the reductions Pawlenty made last year.

Enacting the cuts would avert a cash crunch that could result from schools, cities or other groups touched by Pawlenty's cuts seeking reimbursement of that aid after last week's court decision.

Top Democrats said the new taxes will cushion schoolchildren and college students from the state's financial problems.

Stocks surge on plan to ease European debt crunch

By TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writer

NEWYORK—Stocksrocketed to their biggest gain in a year and bond prices fell Monday after a nearly \$1 trillion plan to contain Europe's debt crisis reassured investors.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose about 405 points to its biggest advance since March 2009. Broader U.S. indexes outpaced the Dow's 3.9 percent rise. Gains in several European markets topped 9 percent.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 3.55 percent from 3.43 percent late Friday. The drop in demand for safety holdings like Treasuries signaled that investors are less afraid that Europe's debt problems will endanger a global recovery.

The European Union and the International Monetary Fund agreed to create a nearly \$1 trillion rescue fund to support European nations burdened by heavy debt. Analysts caution that countries like Greece will still need to make painful spending cuts in the coming years and that the debt problems won't disappear any time soon. Nonetheless, the size of Europe's response was far greater than most analysts had expected, and signaled that policymakers are ready to take significant measures to shore up the euro and keep Europe's debt woes from spreading.

"The market is breathing a huge sigh of relief that the EU has taken aggressive steps," said Alan Gayle, senior investment strategist at RidgeWorth Investments in Richmond, Va.

Investors drew reassurance after the Federal Reserve and other central banks stepped up



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, May 10, 2010.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

with financial support to corral what analysts warned was a growing financial crisis.

The Fed restarted a program from 2008 to ship dollars overseas through the foreign central banks. Those central banks can then lend the dollars out to banks in their home countries. The Bank of England, the European Central Bank, the Bank of Canada, the Swiss National Bank and the Bank of Japan are also involved in the dollar-swap effort. The advance in U.S. stocks was broad. Bank of America Corp., Caterpillar Inc. and General Electric Co. led the Dow with gains of more than 6 percent. All 30 stocks that make up the Dow ended higher for the first time since Nov. 5. Markets around the world plummeted last week after fears grew that Greece's debt problems would spread to other struggling European economies like Spain, Portugal and Italy. The Dow slid 5.7 percent last week in its worst drop since the depths of the financial crisis in October 2008. On Thursday alone, the Dow was down nearly 1,000

points late in the day before recovering much of its losses. Triple-digit Dow moves have again become the norm. The latest swings are reminders of the big swings that occurred during the credit crisis in late 2008 and early 2009.

The Dow rose 404.71, or 3.9 percent, to 10,785.14. At its peak, the Dow was up nearly 455 points. The climb came after four straight days of losses and was the biggest advance since March 2009, when the market was bouncing off its lowest levels in 12 years.

The Dow is still down 420 points, or 3.8 percent, from its 2010 closing high of 11,205 on April 26.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 48.85, or 4.4 percent, to 1,159.73. The Nasdaq composite index rose 109.03, or 4.8 percent, to 2,374.67. For much of 2010, major stock indexes had been climbing steadily on signs the U.S. economy was recovering. Last week's plunge had erased the market's gains for the year, but the jump on Monday put major indices back in the black for 2010. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Woods says neck injury not related to crash



Tiger Woods is driven off the course after a neck injury on the 7th hole during the final round of The Players Championship golf tournament Sunday, May 9, 2010, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

DAN GELSTON
AP Sports Writer
NEWTOWN

Pennsylvania (AP) — Tiger Woods says there is “zero connection” between the

neck pain that forced him to withdraw from The Players Championship and his Nov. 27 car accident.

Woods said during a news conference Monday that his neck started bothering him two weeks before the Masters, his first competition in five months. He brushed it off as “no big deal” until it kept getting worse.

“I’m at a point now where I just can’t go anymore,” he said.

“I want to practice, I want to play, I want to compete, but this is not allowing me to do the things that I need to do on my golf swing to hit the proper shots. I need to get to where I can do that again.”

Woods said he’s been taking anti-inflammatory drugs, but they have not helped. He plans to have an MRI when he returns to Orlando, Florida.

He said his schedule is “up in the air” and could be shaped based on what the MRI reveals.

In November, Woods was

briefly hospitalized after he crashed his Cadillac Escalade into a fire hydrant and a tree outside his home, resulting in a sore neck and a cut lip.

On Monday, Woods insisted he can deal with the pain, which he feels in the right side of his neck, but cannot deal with the spasms that affect his ability to turn his head.

“For me not to play all 18 holes, that was as angry and as frustrated as I’ve been in a long time,” Woods said of withdrawing from The Players Championship on Sunday after six holes. It was Woods’ first withdrawal from a tournament since the Nissan Open at Riviera in 2006.

Woods said he never reached a point until this weekend where he felt he needed more serious treatment on his neck to alleviate the pain.

“It’s possible one of the reasons I think this thing flared up is because I wasn’t conditioned to it,” he said. “I’d been away from the game for such a long time, then came

back and ramped up really quickly in order to try and play the Masters. The body wasn’t quite ready for that.”

After tying for fourth in the Masters, Woods looked lost on the course as he missed the cut at Quail Hollow on April 30 with the highest 36-hole score of his career.

He was noncommittal about playing the U.S. Open on June 17-20.

“I’m trying everything I can to get back as soon as I can,” Woods said.

Woods spent some of his time at The Players Championship denying speculation that he is about to leave Hank Haney, his swing coach since 2004. He said at Aronimink Golf Club that he was working on his swing.

“I talked to Hank about some of the stuff. We’re still working on it,” he said. “We have a lot of work to do. I can’t make the movements that I made before because of the neck. I need to get healthy to play the proper way.” □

U.S. relay teams take Olympic medals appeal to arbitration court

GRAHAM DUNBAR
AP Sports Writer

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The sports world’s highest court began hearing an appeal Monday by seven United States sprinters seeking to regain the Olympic relay medals stripped from them because of doping by Marion Jones.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport heard lawyers for the women on Monday challenge the International Olympic Committee’s decision to strip the U.S. relay medals from the 2000 Sydney Games. The move came after Jones admitted using performance-enhancing drugs at the time.

Mark Levinstein, the Washington, DC-based lead attorney for the athletes, declined to comment on arriving for the case, which is scheduled to be heard over two days.

The Olympic legal team, led by former IOC director general Francois Carrard, also did not speak about the case.

A ruling on the appeal is not expected for several weeks — approaching 10 years after the medal races in question. In Sydney, Jones helped Jearl Miles-Clark, Monique Hennagan, LaTasha Colander Clark and Andrea Anderson win gold in the 4x400 relay.

Chryste Gaines, Torri Edwards, Nanceen Perry and Passion Richardson were with Jones on the 4x100 bronze medal squad. All but Perry are part of the appeal to CAS, though none attended Monday.

The seven believe they should escape punishment for cheating by Jones, who was also stripped in 2007 of her gold medals in the 100 and 200 meters and bronze in the long jump.

The case is expected to sway on the



This Sept. 30, 2000, file photo shows members of the U.S. women’s 1,600-meter relay team, from left, Jearl Miles-Clark, Monique Hennagan, LaTasha Colander-Richardson, and Marion Jones displaying their gold medals during award ceremonies at the Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

Associated Press

weight of legal precedent offered by relay runners at the Sydney Olympics.
a previous doping case involving U.S. **Continued on Page 14**



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Cavaliers may put LeBron on Celtics' Rondo

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio — Unable to corral Rajon Rondo so far in the NBA playoffs, the Cleveland Cavaliers may resort to Plan LeB.

LeBron James, it's your turn. With Rondo coming off an historic 29-point, 18-rebound, 13-assist performance in Game 4, Cavaliers coach Mike Brown said Monday he plans to use an assortment of players to try to slow the seemingly unstoppable Celtics point guard and one of them could be James, the league's two-time MVP and a first-team all-defense selection.

"We're going to give 'Bron an opportunity," Brown said. Rondo's not scared.

"I don't really care who's guarding me," he said.

That's been apparent through the first four games of this ping-ponging series, tied 2-2 going into Tuesday's pivotal Game 5 at Quicken Loans Arena. Rondo, no longer viewed as the fourth Celtic behind Boston's Big Three of Kevin Garnett, Ray Allen and Paul Pierce, has been destroying the Cavs — particularly Mo Williams and Anthony Parker — with his dribble penetration and playmaking.

Rondo is averaging 21.8 points, 13 assists and 8.3 rebounds, eye-popping, LeBron-like numbers that have forced the Cavs into rethinking, and, perhaps, redesigning their defensive strategy. One obvious option is the switch to James, who has shut down Pierce so far and said Sunday he would be willing to check Rondo.

Brown worries that if James is taken off Pierce, Boston's

streaky forward may find his touch after averaging just 11.8 points and shooting only 32 percent through four games.

"You put LeBron on Rondo when he's doing a nice job of making Paul work and you have to put a smaller guy on Paul and we all know what Paul is capable of doing," Brown said. "You do that for long stretches and it can open up a can of worms, and it puts some pressure on LeBron to work defensively throughout the entire game. We'll pick and choose our spots when to put LeBron on him."

If James indeed gets assigned to Rondo, he'll join fellow superstars Kobe Bryant and Dwyane Wade, who both have had to check Boston's tornado-in-tennis shoes guard.

Rondo isn't dreading a one-on-one confrontation with James.

"It's happened before," he said. "LeBron is going to be LeBron. He's a great help defender so he's definitely going to be helping. He's a good defender. They did that a couple of years ago when Kobe was checking me in the finals. So, I'm used to bigger guys guarding me the shot and challenging me late because of their wingspan."

"I really don't care. If he checks me, he checks me. It's not going to change the way we run our offense."

The Cavaliers did little more than some light shooting and conditioning after returning home following their 97-87 loss on Sunday. The primary objective was to break down tape of Game 4, when Rondo joined Oscar Robertson (1963) and Wilt Chamberlain (1967) as the third player in playoff history to have at

least 29 points, 18 rebounds and 13 assists.

"We watched, basically, the tape on him," said Cavaliers center Zydrunas Ilgauskas, who has dropped out of Brown's postseason rotation. "It's hard for one guy to stop him because he is that good. It's going to take all five. We always knew that he was a hell of a player."

"Maybe we were so worried about The Big Three that in some degree we're underestimating him and that was our biggest mistake."

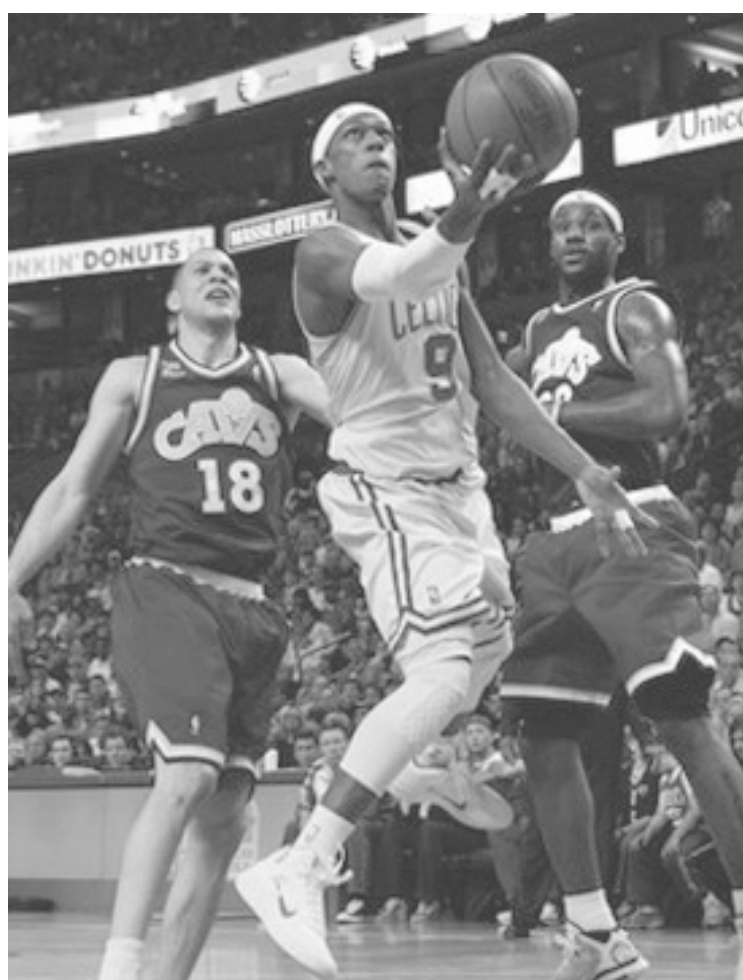
There's still time to correct it, but the danger for the Cavs is that if they focus too much on Rondo, Pierce, Allen or Garnett is capable of having a monster game and sending Boston home with a 3-2 lead. Pierce hasn't been able to get into a rhythm. Hounded by James, he scored only nine points on Sunday and was in foul trouble.

"I'm digging myself a ditch as far as my fouls but I think they're good fouls I'm getting," he said. "It's nothing I'm really worried about. No matter how I'm doing offensively, as long as we win, that's all that matters to me. There's nothing wrong with me."

Like his point guard, Boston coach Doc Rivers isn't concerned about matchups. The Celtics, possibly overlooked as an underdog, are holding their own with the Cavs.

The LeBron vs. Rondo undercard is a bout they're ready to accept.

"We don't care who guards Rondo," Rivers said. "We're going to still run our stuff. It's not like we're going to stop running our offense. We've anticipated it. I've



Boston Celtics guard Rajon Rondo (9) drives past Cleveland Cavaliers' Anthony Parker (18) and LeBron James, right, in the second half of Game 4 in a second-round NBA basketball playoff series in Boston Sunday, May 9, 2010. The Celtics won 97-87.

only talked about it for three games. We know it's going to come at some point in the series and when it does, we have to find a way of using Rondo and making sure he's still the facilitator."

Nothing has been easy for the Cavs. They entered the postseason as one of the favorites and now find themselves in a best-of-three dogfight.

During his post-practice media session, Brown was pressed on a number of issues beyond stopping Rondo.

He was asked about his decision to sit center Shaquille O'Neal for all but the first 49 seconds of the fourth quarter on Sunday. He was challenged about Ilgauskas'

lack of playing time, James' seven turnovers in Game 4 and Cleveland's poor bench production.

At least he didn't have to talk about James' famously sprained elbow, which dominated the discussion between Games 2 and 3.

Brown was asked if the Cavs are feeling the pressure.

"In the playoffs everybody wants to win," he said. "You expect to win. If you're up 3-0 you probably feel less pressure than if you're down 1-2. Yeah, I think it's a natural human instinct to feel a little bit of pressure, but it's good pressure and you got to welcome at this point in the season. "Especially if you expect to be champions." □



Belgium's Wouter Weylandt raises his arms up in celebration as he crosses the finish line to win the third stage of the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race, from Amsterdam to Middelburg, the Netherlands, Monday, May 10, 2010.

Associated Press

BRUCE MUTSVAIRO (AP) — Wouter Weylandt Associated Press Writer edged Graeme Brown of MIDDELBURG, Netherlands Australia in a sprint finish

Belgium's Weylandt wins 3rd stage of Giro d'Italia

Monday to take the third stage of the Giro d'Italia, the last in the Netherlands before the race heads back to Italy.

The Belgian broke away from the main pack in the final meters to finish the flat 224-kilometer (139-mile) stage from Amsterdam to the southern town of Middelburg in 5 hours, 6 seconds.

Cadel Evans, hoping to become the Giro's first Australian winner, lost the overall lead to Alexandre Vinokourov of Kazakhstan.

"I wasn't going for the pink jersey ... but I am happy Evans has lost it," Vinokourov said. Tuesday is a rest day. The

21-stage event resumes Wednesday. The grueling 2,133-mile race ends May 30 in Verona.

Tom Stamsnijder of the Netherlands, Belgium's Olivier Kaisen and Jerome Pineau of France broke away after 1.24 miles before being caught by a group led by former Giro champion Damiano Cunego of Italy.

Evans trailed the leaders for most of the race but, realizing Vinokourov was in the group in front, the Australian world champion made a solo attack about 12.43 miles from the finish but then abandoned his push to finish outside the top

30. Back after serving a two-year doping ban, Vinokourov finished 10th to take the coveted pink jersey.

"It was a dangerous out there with small roads," Vinokourov said. "I thought Andre Greipel was going to win it. My team did some great work and I finished the job."

American rider Christian Vande Velde injured his shoulder after falling from his bike and has withdrawn from the race. Rene Mandri of Estonia and Italy's Marzio Bruseghin also fell, but there were no serious crashes like in Sunday's second stage. □

OLYMPIC MEDALS

Continued from Page 12

A CAS ruling five years ago determined that teammates of Jerome Young should not lose their 4x400 gold medals after he was served a retroactive ban from 1999-2001 — meaning he was technically ineligible

for the games.

Young's relay partners — Michael Johnson, Antonio Pettigrew, Angelo Taylor, Alvin Harrison and Calvin Harrison — won their appeal to CAS after the International Association of Athletics Federations annulled their

result.

CAS said then that IAAF rules in 2000 did not allow a team to be disqualified for one member's doping. The rule was later amended, while Pettigrew handed back his medal in 2008 after he admitted using banned drugs before and after the Sydney Games.

A difference between the Young case and the appeal by Jones's teammates is that he did not run in the 4x400 final at Sydney, while she was part of the quartets that clinched the medals.

The seven women lost a preliminary judgment last December. CAS ruled then that the IOC had the right to disqualify them, even though the decision came seven years after the Sydney Olympics. The athletes had cited an IOC rule that no Olympic decision could be challenged more than three years after the closing ceremony.

If the U.S. women lose their appeal, the IOC would then have to decide if it should reallocate the medals.

Jamaica took silver behind the U.S. in the 4x400 relay and will move up to gold if the standings are adjusted. Russia would move from bronze to silver and Nigeria from fourth to third.

In the 4x100, France stands to be upgraded from fourth to bronze. □

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Serena marathon match at Madrid Masters

MADRID (AP) — Serena Williams saved a match point Monday before beating Vera Dushevina of Russia 6-7 (2), 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5) in the longest match of her career to reach the third round of the Madrid Masters.

The top-seeded American wasted three set points in the first and then faced a match point on her serve when trailing 6-5 in the second, but managed to hold on despite her game being littered with unforced errors.

Williams looked set to close out the match when she broke serve to go 5-2 up, but squandered the lead and then trailed 4-0 in the decisive tiebreaker before sealing the win in 3 hours, 26 minutes. It was the longest match Williams has ever played, according to the WTA Tour.

"I definitely feel really proud because I definitely wasn't playing my best tennis and

I was far off playing well," Williams said. "Also, at that point I wasn't going to lose. After three hours, I'd better win."

Williams left the court for treatment when 3-2 up in the third set and returned with a strapped right thigh. She said she did not yet know how serious her leg injury was.

Her sister Venus had an easier time in beating Vera Zvonareva of Russia 7-5, 6-3, while second-seeded Caroline Wozniacki won her first-round match against Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic 6-4, 6-2. However, defending champion Dinara Safina was upset by Czech qualifier Klara Zakopalova in the first round, losing 7-6 (1), 7-6 (3).

After Zakopalova dominated the first tiebreaker, Safina found some momentum in the second set, winning three games in a row to take a 6-5 lead. However, the Russian

rarely looked like the player that enjoyed a 16-match winning streak on clay last year and the 88th-ranked Zakopalova kept her calm to close out the match.

In another second-round match, Francesca Schiavone beat Sybille Bammer 6-2, 6-1. In first-round action, Peng Shuai advanced when 10th-seeded Victoria Azarenka while trailing 3-0. Anabel Medina Garrigues, eighth-seeded Samantha Stosur, 14th-seeded Flavia Pennetta, 16th-seeded Nadia Petrova, Alisa Kleybanova and Patty Schnyder also won.

In the men's first round, qualifier Oleksandr Dolgoplov Jr. of Ukraine beat Italy's Andrea Seppi 6-3, 6-4 and will meet Rafael Nadal in the second round. Austria's Jurgen Melzer beat South African qualifier Kevin Anderson 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 to set up a meeting with either



Serena Williams from the US returns the ball, during her match against Vera Dushevina from Russia at the Madrid Open Tennis Tournament in Madrid, Monday, May 10, 2010.

Associated Press

David Nalbandian or Tomas Berdych.

Spain's Feliciano Lopez eased past Lukasz Kubot of Poland 6-3, 6-3 and will face fifth-seeded Andy Roddick in the next round.

"Playing against someone as

good as Roddick is going to be very nice," Lopez said. "I've never played against him on clay, and it's a new challenge that I'm thrilled about."

Twelfth-seeded Gael Monfils of France beat compatriot Stephane Robert 6-2, 7-5. □

Federer hopes Madrid will provide turning point

MADRID (AP) — Roger Federer is hoping the Madrid Masters will again prove to be a turning point in his season.

The top-ranked Swiss won the clay-court tournament last year after beating Rafael Nadal in the final, and then went on to claim his first French Open title before adding his sixth Wimbledon crown.

That win "gave me immense confidence," Federer said, and after a poor start to the clay season this year he's hoping Madrid will provide a similar spark.

"Not only did I win the tournament but I beat fellow rivals," Federer said of last year's tournament. "I had a brutal draw

— I played (Robin) Soderling here in the first round. To go on and beat (James) Blake, (Andy) Roddick, (Juan Martin) del Potro and then Rafa (Nadal), it was a great tournament for me."

He could use a similar confidence boost this time.

Federer lost to Ernests Gulbis of Latvia in his first clay-court match of the year at the Rome Masters and was then eliminated in the Estoril Open semifinals by Albert Montanes of Spain.

However, he insisted he is not far from finding his best form.

"I'm doing the right things in practice," he said. "I'm just lacking a bit of luck at times and I'm maybe not hitting the ball as clean as I was at the beginning of the season."

He could run into Nadal in the final again this year, with the Spaniard looking nearly as invincible on clay this year as he was before knee injuries hampered him last season.

"I expected (Nadal) to come back again strong," Federer said. "For me he was never gone, for you maybe he was. He was in the same situation I had to go through last year." □



Switzerland's Roger Federer reacts after losing a point to Spain's Albert Montanes during their Estoril Tennis Open semi finals match Saturday, May 8 2010, in Oeiras, outside Lisbon. Montanes defeated Federer 6-2, 7-6.

Associated Press

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MLB teams take scouting to new level, track ump

By BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

Ron Washington flips the pages of his three-ring notebook, filled with inside info on the other team's pitchers and hitters.

The Texas manager gets to the back of the black binder, reaches into the pocket and pulls out another scouting report — on that night's home plate umpire.

It's a color-coded computer printout showing his strike zone — how he tends to call balls and strikes — and whether he usually gives the pitcher a break if the ball sails just off the corner of the plate. In this ump's case, the calls on the edges are too inconsistent to be predictable.

"We do have their tendencies in the dugout on the wall. The name of the umpire and his tendencies, what they call and what part of the zone they call strikes," Washington said.

"When I was playing, we just knew he was a high-ball umpire or a low-ball umpire, whether he was a pitcher's umpire or a hitter's umpire," he said.

The difference now?

"Technology," Washington said.

For years, baseball teams have scouted the opposition — which pitch is most effective against a certain batter, which catcher has a strong throwing arm, and the like.

Now teams are taking it to a different level by scouting the umpires — compiling information on how consistently they call balls and strikes, how quick they are to eject someone arguing a call, where the crew comes from, the next time they're next in town.

The Rangers aren't the only ones taking advantage, either. Several teams track umpires on a daily basis and provide their players with the detailed reports.



In this May 9, 2010 file photo, home plate umpire Jim Reynolds gets an earful from Chicago White Sox's Gordon Beckham after being called out on strikes with the bases loaded against the Toronto Blue Jays during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Chicago.

Associated Press

Here's how one team assessed Hunter Wendelstedt: "Inconsistent zone, both in-game and from game-to-game, seemingly losing focus at times by balling pitches over middle and calling strikes on pitches well off plate. Seems to want hitter to put ball in play."

Or this look at Gerry Davis: "Hesitates to punch hitters out. Towards the top of the league in umpire ERA in 2009, with low K and low BB rate in 2009 and has continued in 2010. Need to earn strikes with him behind the plate."

In other words, the report says Davis is reluctant to call strike three when a batter doesn't swing.

Some teams attach headshots of the crew, along with a short bio about each of the four umpires. Such as this nugget on Marty Foster: "Attends as many Wisconsin Big Ten football games as possible." And this about Ed Hickox: "Is a sworn police officer in offseason, working as a

detective for the Daytona Beach Shores Police Dept."

"It's just more of a reference to get to know them better, a communication tool," Oakland manager Bob Geren said. "We like to get the players to know who's going to be there, get to know them and give them a little bit of background, so the players can say hello."

"We keep umpire media guides in the dugout. Guys feel uncomfortable if they go out and don't know who they are — and we have a lot of young players," he said.

Advance scouts sometimes prepare the reports.

Other clubs rely on watching video. Stat services and websites also compile the numbers.

"There's so much more data on umpires and it's much easier to track their balls-strikes calling. Guys have more specific reputations because the data is better," Oakland director of baseball operations Farhan Zaidi said.

Exactly how many teams do

it is hard to say — at least a couple of clubs declined to directly answer whether they scout umpires, or they dodged the question.

At Fenway Park last week, longtime crew chief John Hirschbeck shook his head when shown a team's scouting report on a different set of umpires.

"I'm surprised, but I guess I'm not surprised," he said. "Everyone is looking for an edge."

"We try to call every pitch the same way. The stats, those can depend on the matchup, who's pitching that day," he said. "Luck of the draw."

Even though baseball's rule book precisely defines the strike zone, umpires could vary in how they interpret it — not easy in a game where the pitch frequently comes in at more than 90 mph and can dip several inches at the last split second.

To James Hoyer, the personal tidbits and pictures made more sense than the strike zone tendencies. He's working his first full season as a major league umpire, with Wally Bell and Laz Diaz on Hirschbeck's crew.

"Instead of asking Wally the name of the guy who's at second base, they can see for themselves," Hoyer said.

Atlanta manager Bobby Cox said the Braves don't chart the umps. But he could understand why a team would: "If it helps to win one ballgame a year, it's not a waste of time. Might get you to the playoffs."

It could come down to a single pitch, and how it's handled. Here's what one team posted about Jerry Layne: "Seems very influenced by a catcher's receiving." That refers to a catcher's practice of subtly moving his mitt back into the strike zone after catching a close pitch.

Here's a line from the report on how umpire Fieldin

Culbreth reacts on a full-count: "Seems to expand zone on 3-2, as he punches out hitters he normally calls a ball in different counts."

Asked for comment on the practice of scouting, Culbreth, who is on the board of directors of the umpires' union, the World Umpires Association, said: "I'd rather not get involved in that. It doesn't matter."

Los Angeles Dodgers bench coach Bob Schaefer said such reports could result in information overload.

"I mean, it's tough enough for a hitter to look at a pitcher and see what the pitcher's trying to do to him. So you'd clog everything up if you worry about the umpire," he said.

The Toronto Blue Jays certainly keep tabs.

"Every umpire that comes into town, whether at home or on the road, we have their tendencies. We know what type of umpires they are," hitting coach Dwayne Murphy said.

"They have that information. I'm not sure which site or where we get it from, but that information is there. They all have it," he said.

That's news to many people.

"I never heard of that. That's very interesting," Detroit manager Jim Leyland said.

Wondered Florida manager Fredi Gonzalez: "Do people do that? Maybe I'm missing the boat; you tell me. I haven't. Who has done that? I want to ask them. Maybe it'll help us win another game or two."

Washington pitcher Craig Stammen's first reaction was: "Huh? That's smart." Nationals teammate Livan Hernandez got wide-eyed. "I never heard of that," the pitcher said.

Neither had Milwaukee outfielder Jim Edmonds. "It's probably not a bad idea. It's an interesting concept," he said. □

Donkey Sanctuary is the 2010 charity at Café the Plaza

Café the Plaza hosts Polesitting Championships

ORANJESTAD - The upcoming Polesitting Championships will be a blast: great bands, a wonderful charity, enthusiastic volunteers and polesitters and super prizes for the raffle, the musical chairs and other rousing games that the Donkey Sanctuary is organizing. Activities include children's games in the afternoons, a photo opportunity with a cute little donkey, book signing sessions, a children's bingo, nightly nail hitting contests and an ongoing raffle. The Save the Donkey foundation is busy getting everything ready for Thursday, May 13, when the polesitters will climb upon their perches for the first time.

If everything goes according to plan, they step off for the last time on Sunday evening when the record of 87 hours has been broken.

The volunteers of the Donkey Sanctuary (Salba Nos Burico) have found some wonderful sponsors, who will help them get funds to keep their shelter running. At the moment more than 100 donkeys find a good home at the shelter. Due to the hazards of increasing traffic and diminishing habitat, these lovely animals could not stay in the wild.

Prizes for the raffle winners include digital cameras (Frasa and Horses & More),

gift certificates from Que Pasa Restaurant, Marandi, La Cabana, B55, Amici, Screaming Eagle, Holiday Inn, Matthew's, Café Rembrandt, Casa Tua, House of Japan, De Suikertuin, T.H. Palm, Beauty and the Beast, beauty treatments courtesy of Pia di Oro, Beauty with Style and Brickell Bay Spa, statuettes courtesy of Leen Bakker, five AWG. 150,-- gift certificates from Superfood Supermarket, from Treasure Box, Botica Aloe, Albo, Yemanja, Chef's Table, Het Pannenkoekenhuis, a weekend stay at Cunucu Arubiano, gifts of DA Drogist, a visit to En Vogue Coiffures, and an Ipod Shuffle by E-Solutions and CATC, a jeep



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The long Ascension Day weekend will be filled with fun, so don't forget to pass by any time of day or night to

cheer on the polesitters and the volunteers. Come and support a terrific good cause, have a drink, a dance and win!

Photos show Polesitters Heidi Schipper (24), Kevin Immerzeel (23) and veteran polesitter and former record holder Liesbeth Croes (29) together with Desiree Eldering and Sharon van der Spaan of the Donkey foundation and stagiarr Marco Roelofsen at Caf the Plaza where all the excitement will take place. □

Aruba Prime Minister attends Costa Rica President's installation ceremony

Mike Eman reinforces diplomatic ties with Latin America



ORANJESTAD--- Prime Minister Mike Eman made good use of his presence in Costa Rica to reinforce diplomatic relations with countries in the region. Prime Minister Eman represented the Kingdom of The Netherlands and also Luxemburg, at the official installation of new President of Costa Rica, Laura Chinchilla-Miranda.

Continued on Next Page

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Mike Eman reinforces diplomatic ties with Latin America



Continued from Page B1

The ceremony took place in San Jose, with attendance of top leaders in the region, including President of Colombia Alvaro Uribe, Felipe Calderon of Mexico, Porfirio Lobo of Honduras, and Rafael Correa of Ecuador, and also the Spanish Royal representative, Prince Felipe de Borbon.

Mrs. Chinchilla Miranda is the first female to assume the presidency of Costa Rica and follows the footsteps

of her mentor Nobel Peace Prize winner Oscar Arias Sanchez, who became emotional to see one of his pupils take on the leadership of the 'Switzerland' of Central America. In fact, the crowd expressed great joy upon seeing their outgoing President, but also eager to welcome their new leader, who as a wife, mother, and daughter has to carry on the legacy of a great predecessor. The Aruban Prime Minister was able to convey the best wishes to the new President,

on behalf of Aruba, the Kingdom and also lay the groundwork for future cooperation. Costa Rica is one of the preferred destinations for Aruban students to attend higher education, following The Netherlands and USA.

Prime Minister Eman made his diplomatic calls even before the ceremony started. Upon arrival at San Jose, the Aruban Prime Minister accompanied by the Dutch Kingdom Ambassador in Costa Rica Matthijs van Bonzel, met with the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, Francisco Arias Cardenas. The meeting took place at the Venezuelan Embassy in San Jose. The meeting was to emphasize the good understanding that always existed between the Dutch Kingdom and Venezuela. Both Mr. Eman and Mr. Arias Cardenas exchanged gifts on behalf of their countries.

Following the installation ceremony, Prime Minister Eman had a private meeting with Colombia's Alvaro Uribe. The Colombian President is set to step down this year as the leader of his country, but many foresee his party candidate as his

likely successor, based on Uribe's effective presidency. He will remain a major player in Colombia, and Aruba as well as the Kingdom does appreciate any lasting relation. The two political leaders spoke about ways to cooperate.

The ties between Colombia and Aruba are also historic, commercial and now personal, as the island has welcomed thousands of Colombians as residents and also as tourists. Moreover, Valero headquarters in Houston are currently in contact with the Colombian company Pacific Rubiales Energy, for a possible cooperation on the refinery in Aruba. Pacific Rubiales has its own oil sources and is being traded on the Canadian market. It is considered the largest independent exploration and production company of oil and natural gas in Colombia.

According to sources, Mr. Eman was also able to meet Mexico's President Calderon. Costa Rica's Consul in Aruba Mrs. Cecilia Arends Vries and Ms. Eleisha Williams of the Foreign Affairs Department also formed part of the Aruba delegation that traveled to Costa Rica. □

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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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open daily

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11 pm
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Former employees first in line for Aruban Resort Casino employ

Minister of Tourism confident with Icahn Partners commitment to Aruba



ORANJESTAD — count on new employment. Employees who lost their jobs upon the closure of Key Largo Casino can

Resort & Casino to the Icahn Group has brought new life and perspective into the company including a casino.

The Minister said he was assured by the Icahn Partners Owner Mr. Carl Icahn himself, that the company will make substantial investment to upgrade both the hotel and the casino.

Moreover, former Key Largo Casino will have the first option to enter the employ of the new casino, which is set to open within a few weeks.

The casino will open again in the former, smaller Key Largo building. However, like it was always the intention, the casino will have to move into the spacious, former Cabana Casino structure. This building was being renovated by the previous owner, but was never completed. Icahn Partner will now take over the reconstruction and expect

the casino premises to be finished by next year. Pending however is the casino licensing, but Minister Oduber is not worried about the seriousness of the investors and therefore said there is no problem to grant a temporary license in the meantime.

At this moment, the resort itself is not in total operation. Only half of the rooms are in use, and Icahn foresees the 320 rooms of the resort to be ready for public also in the next few months, as soon as the necessary improvements are done. Minister Oduber says

he feels confident that Icahn Partners is a serious company and that it will comply with its intentions.

The group gave a commitment of continuance which is crucial for the Aruba tourism industry's reputation, but also important for the state of mind of the employees.

Managing Director of Icahn Group Vincent Intrieri expressed gratitude toward Aruba and stated the company will indeed work to the benefit of the island. He promised the community will soon see positive changes at the Aruban Resort. □

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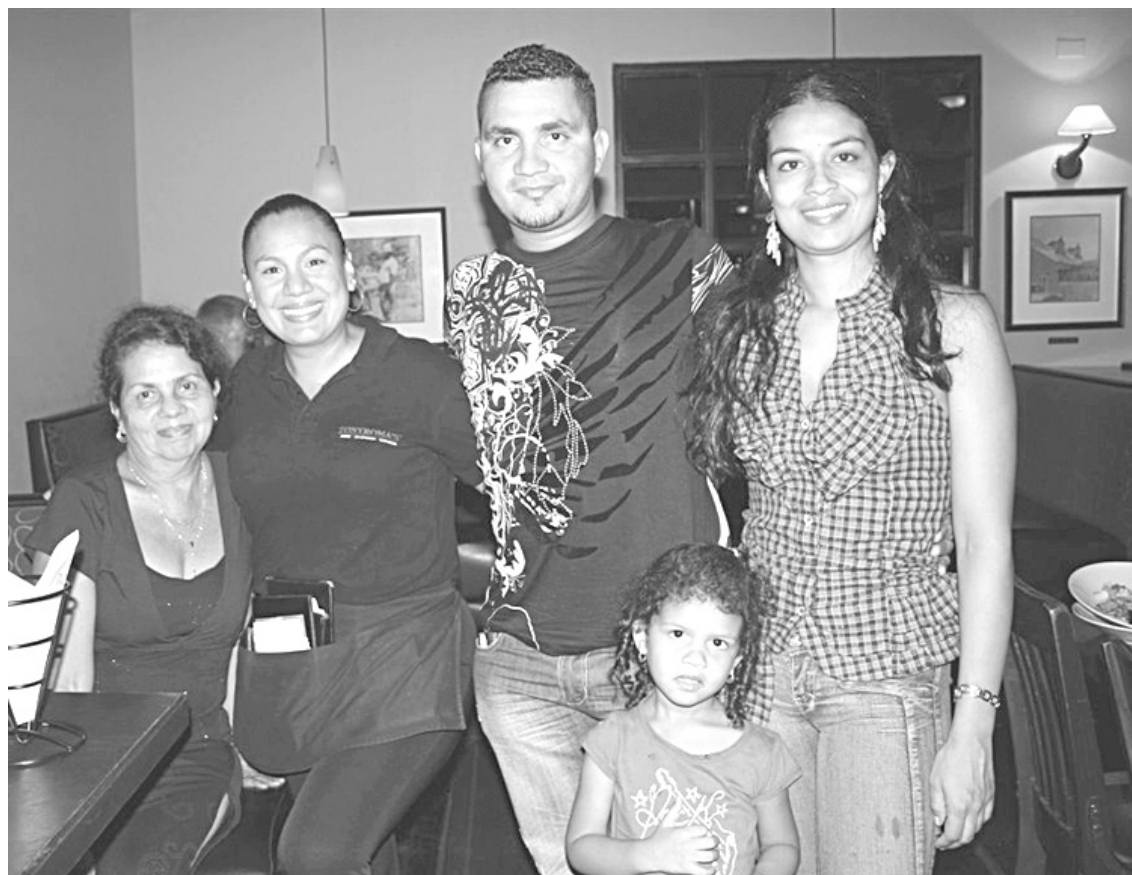
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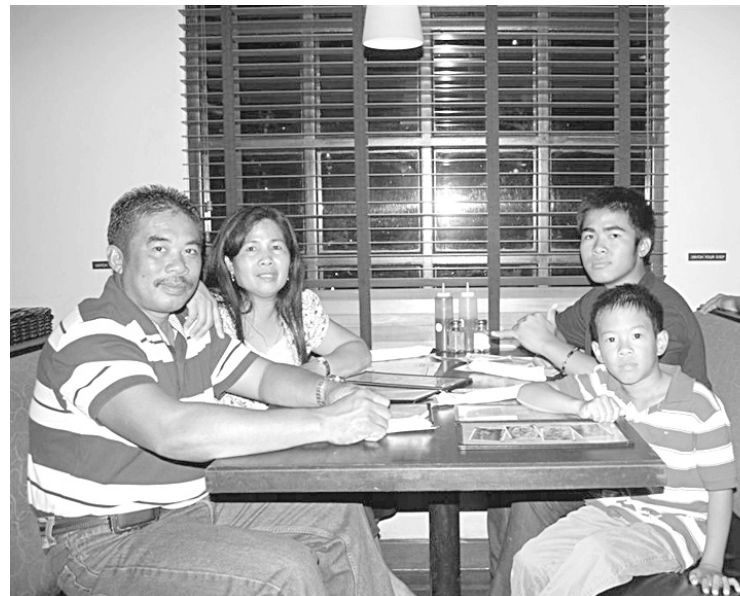
Families gather at Tony Roma's for Mother's Day



PALM BEACH - No way to spend Mother's Day? Tourists and locals alike enjoyed a family feast of world-famous ribs,

signature steaks, gourmet burgers, salads, even fresh grilled fish. There's something for everyone on the menu—including a children's menu.

The restaurant was filled to capacity on Mother's Day for lunch and dinner in the relaxed environ of



the dining room as well as the outdoor covered terrace that overlooks a tropically-landscaped park.

Tony Roma's is open daily for lunch and dinner, and is located adjacent to the Holiday Inn. □



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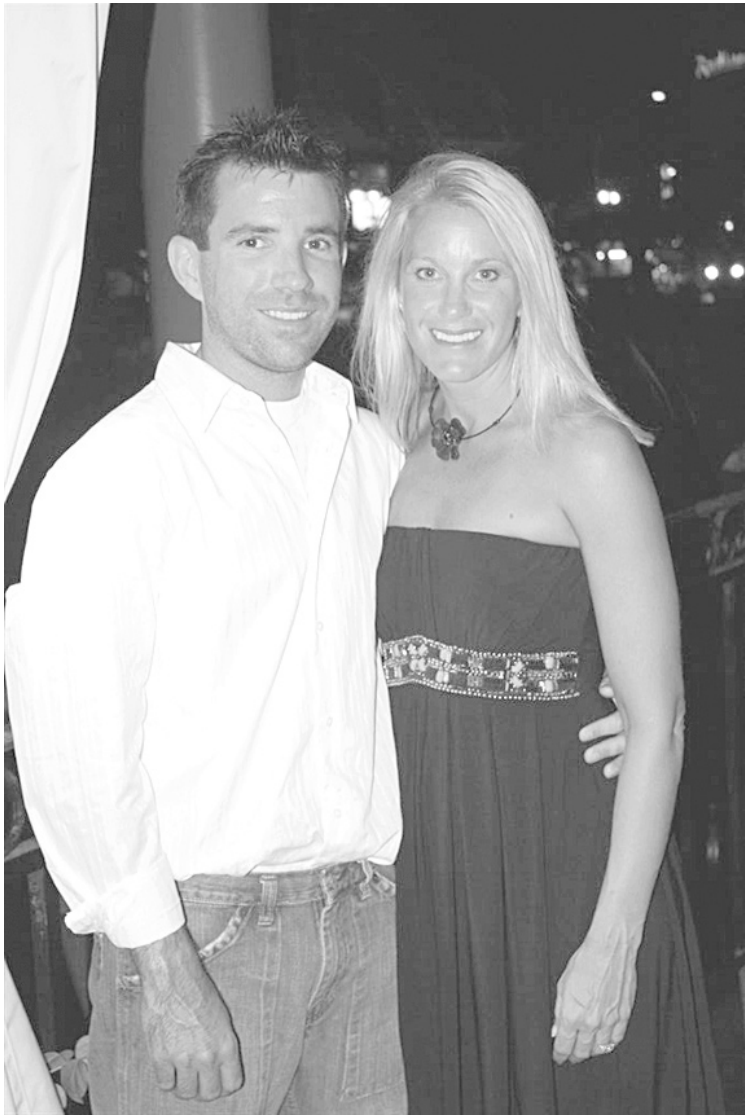
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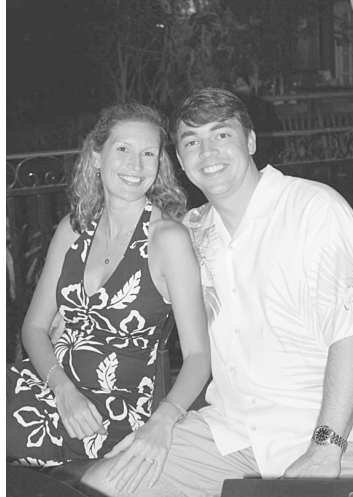
3 - 4- 5 Times Odds



Aqua Grill hosts pre-wedding celebration



PALM BEACH - This past Friday evening, Georgia natives Melanie and Michael held the rehearsal dinner for their wedding at Palm Beach seafood hotspot Aqua Grill. Guests to the event traveled from the United States to Aruba for the fairytale destination wedding at the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa that took place on Saturday afternoon. Aqua Grill's event team



helped plan the rehearsal dinner that was held on the restaurant's al fresco patio. With a menu of the island's freshest seafood, steaks, pasta, and chicken, Aqua Grill is a popular choice for group celebrations. The culinary and event teams are skilled in tailoring events to suit each unique celebration. □



Alter Your Patterns

Our behavioral patterns are created in our subconscious. They are then stored in our physical DNA as vibrational energy, in the brain as synaptic pathways and chemically as hormonal release patterns. No wonder it's so hard to shed our old ways.

In the three dimensional illusion, we get stuck in automatic reaction to external stimuli. We seek circumstances in which we play the same unconscious role, over and

over. We become typecast and comfortable with the character we play. When we get bored with the patterns, we begin to see them.

Seeing your own patterns marks a notable change in your perspective. You gain the ability to see from your spirit's point of view, and this allows you to consciously alter your automatic reactions. You transform from powerless reaction into empowered action. Even while you're in automatic reaction, you

step outside of yourself and watch. Your love for yourself will give you the courage to change.

When you recognize a pattern that you're in, ask yourself how you can handle it differently. What alternative outcome would you prefer, and what different actions might take you there? Make a definite change in your pattern to consciously alter the result. This snaps you out of your automatic reactions and shows you possibilities for different outcomes. When you change a pattern, you will see that you have been free from it all along.

It does not matter if things turn out the way you want or expect them to. What matters is that you changed the pattern. You shocked the cycle and altered the typical outcome. Opportunities that you have never considered will appear, as new probabilities gain

strength based on your new direction.

Make sure you want to break the old cycle. Look at the pattern and decide what you want to do differently. Think of the new outcome you want, then act in that direction. Take action to break the cycle.

When the pattern collapses, don't resist. Rarely do we get what we expect. When the unexpected comes, we naturally look to the secure past for answers. The automatic patterns we're breaking serve as our most reliable support structures. When we release our old patterns, we eat away at the foundation that holds us. Have courage. It is worth it to shed the patterns which no longer serve you.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email

each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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daily: 5:45 8:00
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NEW

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NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET

daily: 5:00 7:15 9:30
matinee: 2:45 late show: 11:45

PG-13

THE LOSERS

daily: 5:15 7:30 9:45
matinee: 12:45 3:00 late show: 12:00

PG-13

DEATH AT A FUNERAL

daily: 4:45 7:00 9:15
matinee: 12:15 2:30 late show: 11:30

PG-13

CLASH OF THE TITANS

daily: 4:15 6:48 9:00
matinee: 1:45 3:30 late show: 11:30



PG-13

IRON MAN 2

daily: 5:30 8:30
matinee: 12:00 2:45 late show: 11:15

AT PASEO HERENCIA

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ONDINE

daily: 5:30 8:00
matinee: 12:15 3:00 late show: 11:00

NEW

PG-13

IRON MAN 2

daily: 5:30 8:30
matinee: 12:00 2:45 late show: 11:15

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HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

daily: 4:15 6:30 8:45
matinee: 1:45 late show: 11:00



PG-13

THE BACK-UP PLAN

daily: 4:30 7:00 9:15
matinee: 2:00 late show: 11:45

PG

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID

daily: 12:30 2:45 late show:

PG

FURRY VENGEANCE

daily: 5:45 8:00 10:15
matinee: 1:15 3:30 late show: 12:30

PG-13

DATE NIGHT

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Matinee: sat & sun | Late show: fri & sat



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Aruba TODAY

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THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

SUPERB NEW ILLUSIONS

MAGIC Live! Comedy On the Beach 3 shows in 1*At the Westin Aruba at 9.PM nightly*

PALM BEACH - STEINFELD presents WOW factor! at the MAGIC LIVE!®...theater-of-illusions show, Westin - Aruba. MAGIC Live!® theater-of-illusions show, starring Adam Steinfeld... is an amazing night of Magic, Grand Illusions and Comedy, superb magic at it's highest level, a lot of fun from start to finish, laugh-out-loud funny, intelligent, sophisticated, unconventional grand illusions, that will keep you asking, 'how

the heck did he do that?'

Perfect for the holiday season, have you ever dreamed of disappearing and reappearing in an instant? Master illusionist, comedy magician, Adam Steinfeld MagicLive show at the WESTIN, Aruba, nightly 9PM, every night, doors open at 8:30PM, and tickets may be purchased at the door, in the intimate Magic Live! theater-of-illusions theater,

every seat is close to the stage.

In his new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", a tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees, then the sections are taken away, one by one, until the girl vanishes completely... right before your eyes!

Then as if that isn't enough to run to your local optometrist, he re-assembles the box for the magicbabe to make a

IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions show

Where: Westin - Aruba, Palm beach (high-rise area)

Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld

ShowTime: 9:00 pm, nightly, (7 days a week) theater opens at 8:30pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE: AT THEATER OF ILLUSIONS box office located in Westin lobby starting at 7:30pm nightly up until showtime, or at front desk at anytime

Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$34.95 adults



triumphant reappearance. It's an all new original illusion not seen anywhere else in the world. I went back to see the show during rehearsals, and still couldn't figure out the secret.

Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba, and on network television, Mr. Steinfeld recently authored "the Houdini Conspiracy", aka "Houdini Lives!", a

collaborated work with new england mystery writer Al Blanchard, he believes will be turned into a feature film.

SEE MAGIC, comedy and "seemingly impossible feats, get ready to marvel at the all new, MAGIC! theater-of-illusions show starring ADAM STEINFELD. MAGIC LIVE! theater-of-illusions show...at the WESTIN-Aruba, 9pm nightly, starring AdamSteinfeld. □

Spectacular seafood special at Driftwood

From the pier to your plate at authentic Aruban seafood restaurant

ORANJESTAD - It's happening downtown. Established Driftwood Restaurant launches a serie of spectacular and delicious seafood specials, available now.

Driftwood is specialized in fresh seafood from the Caribbean Sea and has become the favorite spot for Aruban-style seafood dishes. Fresh fish is caught daily by the owner himself and



perfectly and authentically prepared by their talented local Chef.

Located in the heart of characteristic downtown, Driftwood offers you a unique dining experience. Enjoy the freshest fish, biggest shrimp, or the most succulent Caribbean lobster amid the rustic ambience of the natural driftwood dining room.

The authentic local seafood restaurant.

The menu includes a large variety of typically Aruban delicacies including a three star fish soup and a mouth-watering filet of fish served with a mild Aruban Creole sauce... a seafood lover's dream come true.

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.

**Special of the month**

Every month the Chef treats his customers with a delicious dinner special. In June one may choose from different soups, fish cakes or salads to start with. The main

course is a choice of catch of the day (prepared your way), Jumbo Shrimp or for the meatlovers Filet Mignon or Chicken Breast. The evening is topped with a grand dessert and coffee or tea.

Driftwood Restaurant

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"Dinner is almost ready..."

Special of the Month:
3-course dinner →
Appetizer - Entree - Dessert

\$24
per person



PALM BEACH – On Friday afternoon, all “mommy” associates of The Westin Resort, Aruba enjoyed a special event produced just in their honor. Held in the



Fun Island Living, at T.H. Palm & Company



Palm Beach -- The beautiful T.H. Palm & Company offers an exceptional, upscale shopping experience aptly described as “Fun Island Living.” Owned by long time Aruba resident Jodi Tobman who has several other boutiques on the island, Jodi reports she had a lot of fun creating this magnificent jewel of a boutique which first opened its doors in June of 2004.

A wide variety of distinctive items are on display on interesting antique décor pieces, from luscious silk tropical shirts for men to stylish resort wear and exclusive artisan jewelry for women.



The theme of “Fun Island Living” is apparent in the wide selection of accessories for home including tropical barware and serving pieces, books, artwork and lamps. There are handbags “to live for” and an array of gifts for children of all ages as well as a variety of novelty gift items for pets.

When visiting T.H. Palm & Company, we suggest you take your time as you will need to browse from floor to ceiling in order not to miss anything. Larger items can be shipped to your home address at a nominal fee and shipping is always an available option.



For those who find it hard to choose from among all the enchanting objects in stock or for those who do not have time to shop, a Personal Shopper service is available to assist at no extra charge, by appointment, please.

T.H. Palm & Company is conveniently located in front of the Playa Linda Beach Resort and offers late night shopping and convenient parking. Open daily from 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Fridays open until 11 p.m. Telephone +297 586 8909. Email: orders@salamanderholdings.com



while great prizes were raffled off, as well as each mom receiving a gift. The highlight of the afternoon came from the appearance of a special “mystery guest.” When “Raquelita” showed up to wish everyone a happy Mother’s Day, most associates had no idea it was none other than their general manager, Richard Roy, expertly dressed and made up as his female alter ego! □

Westin moms were queens for the day



Fishes & More showcases the best seafood entrees

Ask about the Early Bird Menu from 4 PM to 6:30 PM



Fishes & More specialize in freshest fish and seafood on the island, and at the same time please the non-fish lovers as well. All the dishes are prepared a la minute by an internationally experienced kitchen team, which gives the twist to the fabulous dishes. Influences from all over

the world are found back on the menu and they are already well known for the daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work

only with fresh and honest products! Ideally located in front of the Occidental Resort (Former Allegro), they are visited both by individuals and families alike, as they have a super kids menu, so they can enjoy their dinner as much as you

will yours! Enjoy live entertainment every night at 8PM, and even after dinner the perfect night out continues, as you can shop till you drop since the shops on our friendly

square are open until eleven. See what its like to experience real fresh dining joy with a twist!

Open from 4 pm until midnight

For reservations call
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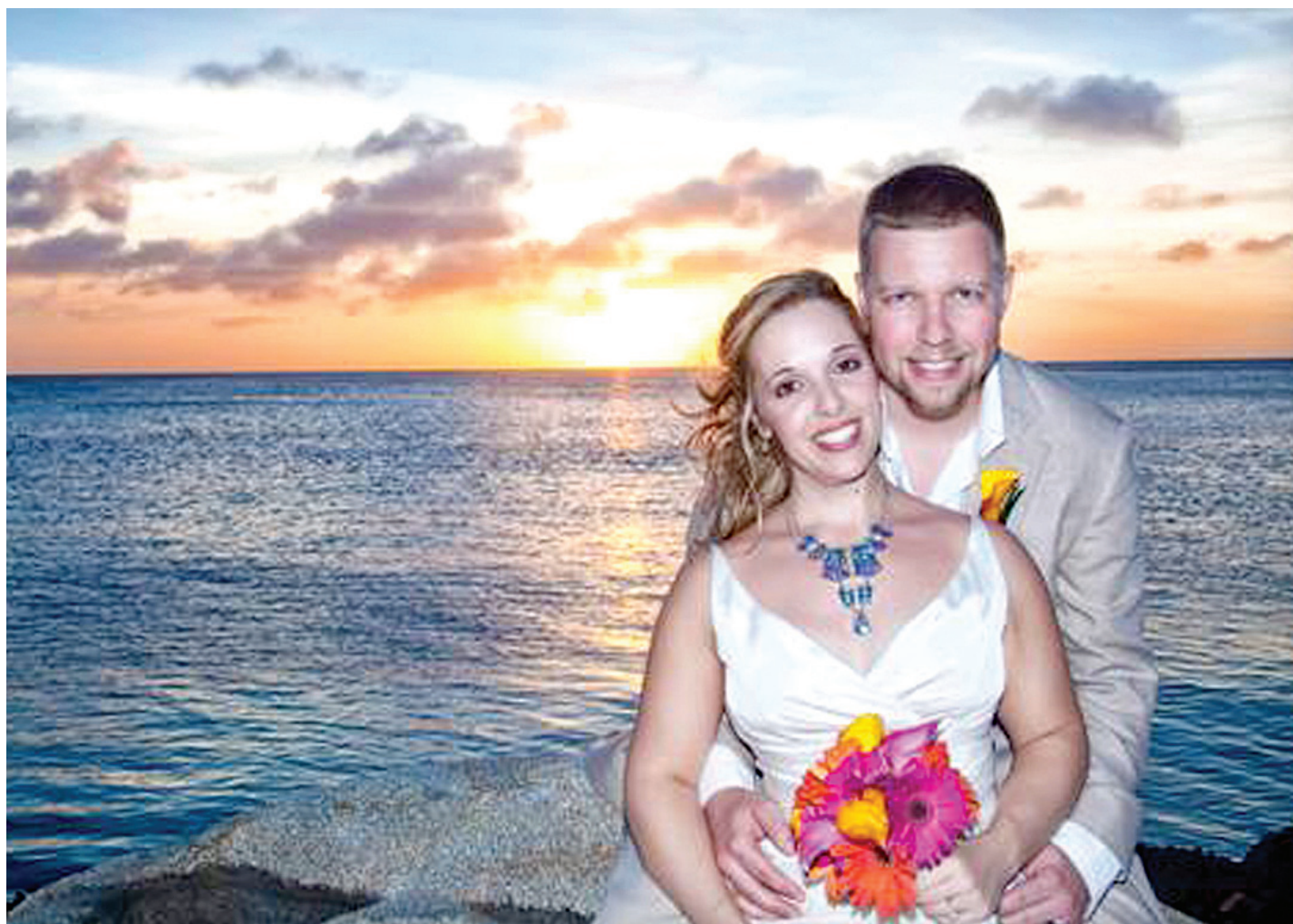
At the Amsterdam Manor

Perfect sunset wedding for Nicole & Attila

EAGLE BEACH - On April 23rd, 2010 Nicole Aubin & Attila Lengyel vowed their love to one another at Eagle Beach. The lovely couple had the following comments about their whole experience: "Many friends and family members had visited and told us how much they loved being on Aruba. We came to the Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort for our wedding because of the pictures we had seen of previous weddings, they looked so beautiful. We loved the ambience of the Manor, the whole experience was wonderful, both Anne Maduro & Lissy Lampe had everything under control and offered great suggestions and guidance throughout the whole event. Our family and friends loved every part of it!

We strongly recommend the Amsterdam Manor to any couple looking for a gorgeous Island spot to be married"

The Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort, Ceremonies & Celebrations and ARUBA TODAY extend their congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Lengyel. □



Aqua Grill... "the hip restaurant that is heaven on earth for seafood lovers," Fodor's Travel Guide



Among the island's many fine restaurants, Aqua Grill is the premier seafood sensation. Excitingly prepared in an open-view kitchen, fresh local catches join delicacies from waters abroad, including live Maine lobster, Norwegian salmon, sashimi tuna, and Alaskan king crab, along with a selection of non-seafood dishes.

Aqua Grill's award-winning chef offers a menu of classic and contemporary dishes. The fresh

seafood is prepared in a variety of regional styles, melding local island charm with the traditions of New England, the spices of Jamaica, the zesty flavors of Italy, the mystique of Indonesia, and beyond.

In addition to a selection of authentic dishes, your seafood can also be prepared wood-grilled, broiled, poached, steamed, or pan-fried upon request. Complimenting the menu is the island's

largest raw bar and a generous wine list of over one hundred selections.

Set in a contemporary decor combining the traditions of a New England fish house with the ease and character of the Caribbean, Aqua Grill's warm, island hospitality is the final ingredient to the complete dining experience on Aruba.

Open nightly from 6pm to 11pm, 5:00pm to 11:00pm on Sunday. □

Marisela's Last Concert for the Year was Tremendous



ORANJESTAD -- Marisela & the Aquarius Band played at Garufa Cocktail Lounge on Friday, for the last time before the singer's world tour in Europe. Followers, friends, fans and music lovers enjoyed many fun moments as Marisela delivered a tremendous show laced with classic Rock n

Roll, steaming Latin music and contemporary favorites. Over the years Marisela played in different clubs on the island, but always had a special relationship with Garufa where she entertained weekends. Now the time for her to spread her musical wings has come and she will let the universe discover her, just the same way that Aruba did.

We love you Marisela and thank you for the many happy moments you gave us, music

is a universal language and you Marisela speak it so well, when you become super famous, we hope you will still come back to your home-island and shine some of your light on us.

David Garcia, Garufa's Manager reports, the club was packed to the wee hours. It was also very busy Saturday night with the new Salsa sensation Jibison 4, dishing out hot Cuban style music. □




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Best & Solid Real Estate



Malmok 31

This spacious villa with pool consists of 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large garage, living room, dining room and alarm system. Master bedroom incl. a spacious walk-in closet. Brandnew kitchen with high end appliances. Built up size 363m², on 1078m² of land. Tropical garden & covered terrace with great views.

US\$ 730.337



Bloemond 28-S

Located in a quiet residence, this well maintained 2-storey house with pool, close to the secondary road to Paradera. The house (218 m²) is built on 462 m² property land. Living room, kitchen with dining area, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, office, outside maids room with bathroom.

US\$ 358.989

HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

Cancer report energizes activists, not policy



A model smokes backstage before the start of the Jenni Kayne fall fashion show during New York Fashion Week February 7, 2007.

REUTERS/Lucas Jackson

By Maggie Fox,

Health and Science Editor

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — A cancer report that concludes Americans are under constant assault from carcinogenic agents has heartened activists, who hope that finally government and policymakers will pay attention to their concerns.

Cancer experts say for the most part that we already know what causes most cases of cancer and it's not pollution or chemicals lurking in our water bottles. It's tobacco use and other unhealthy behaviors, says Dr. Graham Colditz of the

Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

"The lack of physical activity, weight gain, obesity clearly account for 20 percent or more of cancer in the United States today," Colditz said in a telephone interview.

The report, he said, gives people an excuse to ignore the risk factors most in their control.

"The damage is that it distracts us, as a society, from actually acting on the things that are already in our grasp. I can take tobacco as the best example," said Colditz, noting that more than 20 percent of Americans

still smoke despite nearly 50 years of cancer warnings.

And no state has even come close to banning smoking, although limits are going into place to restrict smoking in public.

"We know that alcohol causes 4 percent (of cancers) and we deal with that to too little extent, as well," said Colditz, an expert in the epidemiology of cancer. Red meat is a known cause of colon cancer, he adds. "We don't run out and ban all beef just because beef is a cause of colon cancer."

UNDERSTUDIED OR OVEREMPHASIZED?

So it worries Colditz to see the two-member cancer panel -- Dr. LaSalle Leffall, professor of surgery at Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, and Margaret Kripke, an emeritus professor at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center -- recommends sweeping policy changes to focus on potential environmental causes of cancer.

"Maybe up to 4 percent of cancer in the western world is caused by contaminants and pollution and yet we are

chasing new, unknown causes rather than focusing on acting on what we know," he said. "Things like this report are making it harder to move the nation to a healthier lifestyle." Kenneth Cook, president of the Environmental Working Group, an activist group that conducts research into environmental health questions, disagrees with the assessment that chemical causes of cancer are only in the single digits.

"As this prestigious body's report underscores, the federal government has failed to take aggressive action to protect people from chemicals that cause cancer," Cook said in a statement.

Cook hopes the report will prompt changes. "The tide is shifting, thanks to irrefutable scientific research and a strengthening of political will in Washington."

But one government researcher, who asks not to be named, doubts it. "In the past the President's Cancer Panel has not had much impact," the researcher said.

The panel was set up in 1971 as part of then-President Richard Nixon's "war on

cancer." It calls for more research into the potential chemical and environmental causes of cancer, including mobile phones and a plastic ingredient called BPA.

Such research is already under way and the agencies conducting it say it will take years and studying many thousands of people to tease out potential cancer signals. One big problem -- people are soaked in chemicals, electromagnetic radiation, hormones and other known causes of cancer that can interact with thousands of genetic variations to start tumors growing -- or not. Figuring out whether any one ingredient is mutating a gene or set of genes in a certain way will be difficult.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has a program to test 5,000 people each year for dozens of chemicals and to collate a database over time.

And last month researchers launched a giant study to track at least 250,000 people in five European countries for up to 30 years to see if there are any health effects from using mobile telephones. □

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Kidney Removal May Be Ill-Advised for Some Elderly

Removing a kidney does not seem to extend the life of elderly people with kidney cancer that has not spread, a new study finds. Instead, it suggests, people with such cancer should undergo more conservative treatments that preserve the non-cancerous parts of their kidneys.

Kidney cancer cases have increased over the past 10 years, especially among older people, and doctors are trying to figure out the best way to treat what they call localized cancer in this age group.

In the new study, Dr. Steve Campbell of the Cleveland Clinic and his colleagues examined the medical records of 537 people who were

at least 75 years old and had localized kidney tumors.

About 20 percent of them were simply observed, 53 percent had surgery that spared their kidney and 27 percent had their kidney removed. In the next four years, 28 percent of the overall group died, but just 4 percent of the deaths were attributable to progression of their cancer.

The type of treatment did not affect the risk for dying, the researchers found. Rather, additional medical problems were found to have raised that risk. And, people who had a kidney removed had increased problems with their remaining kidney, the study found. □



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The bailout's costs are big – but falling

By David R. Francis

When the risky high-wire acts of Wall Street firms got them into life-threatening danger, Washington spread out a big and expensive safety net.

Some firms failed, but most fell into the net. And, as it turned out, the cost of that bailout net is turning out to be far less than originally feared. This is good news for future federal fiscal deficits.

The real cost of the bailout depends on whom you ask and what you include. Here are some estimates:

\$87 billion. That's the estimate by Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, who told Congress the bailout's final cost could be that low after repayments and sale of assets that Washington had picked up. That amount includes the \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) that Congress approved in October 2008 as well as rescues of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the auto companies, and helping homeowners.

\$127 billion. That's the April 20 estimate of the TARP's special inspector general, Neil Barofsky. The losses stem mostly from AIG (the insurance giant), the automakers, and rising home foreclosures. Up to that date, the financial institutions had paid back \$186 billion.

That total is far better than the worst-case scenario Mr. Barofsky outlined early in the crisis, when he estimated \$21 trillion of taxpayer money was put at risk in the financial bailout when various guarantees were included in the total.

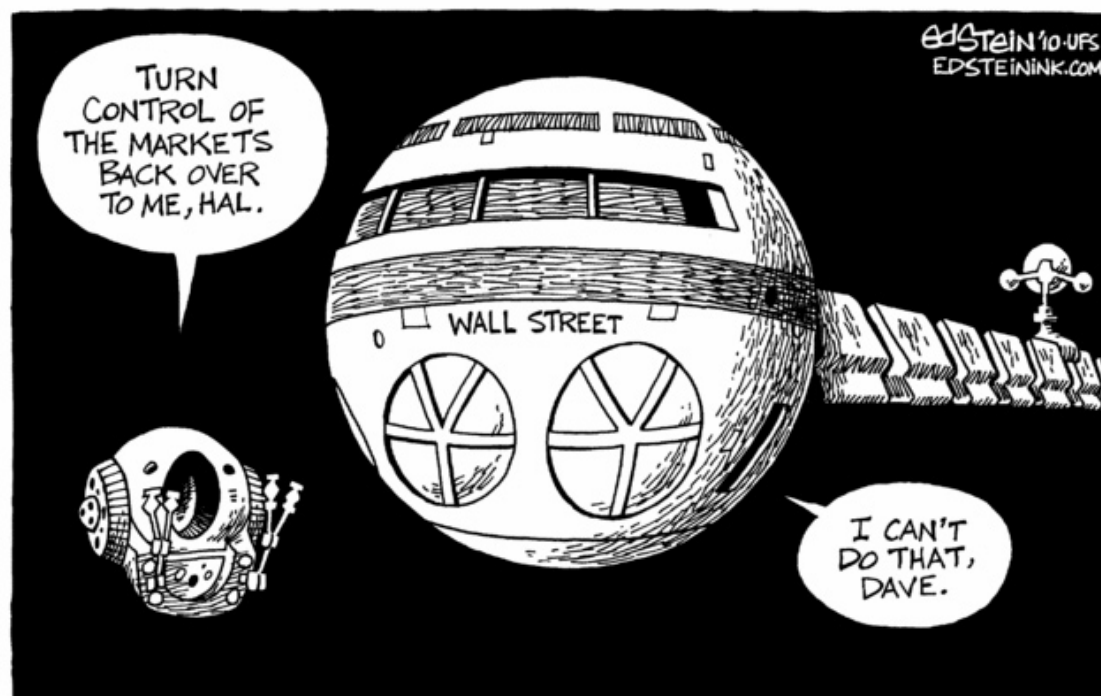
\$315 billion. That's the total calculated by ProPublica, a Web-based investigative journalism site. ProPublica looks at not only TARP, but also a host of other programs aimed at alleviating the crisis and recession.

\$2 trillion. The Center for Media and Democracy (CMD) estimated last month that federal agencies, including the Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., have disbursed some \$4.6 trillion in supporting the financial sector since the meltdown in 2007-08. Some \$2 trillion is still outstanding, the CMD estimates. Since the bailout involves all kinds of loans, some backed by "tons of toxic assets," as the CMD's Mary Bottari puts it, a more precise estimate of costs probably is two or three years away.

Even at \$2 trillion, the cost of the bailout would be far smaller than the \$21 trillion put at risk. "We are getting better numbers than I expected," says Dean Baker, an economist at the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington.

Of course, these bailout costs don't include huge related costs of the financial crisis: 21 million unemployed, millions of them getting unemployment benefits; \$9.3 trillion in lost house values; a massive transfer of income from savers to banks because of the Fed's policy of low interest rates on short-term money, etc.

The costs of the rescue make it easier for President Obama to argue for a levy on financial institutions to make up the difference. His fiscal 2011 budget proposes a tax that would bring in \$90 billion over 10 years, very close to the \$87 billion that Secretary Geithner has estimated the bailout will cost, notes Ms. Bottari. □



2010

Searching for Self-Governance in America

Jeremy Lott

In Search of Self-Governance is not the sort of book you would expect the head of a major polling firm to write. Scott Rasmussen, the president and founder of Rasmussen Reports, has written a slim volume that is admittedly "not filled with polling data," and that's putting it too mildly. The first percentage the reader comes across is half way through the book, where we learn that "only about 3% of Americans watch those Sunday morning shows." Rasmussen has written a heart-felt pamphlet calling for a reordering of American politics, from bottom to top. The only special pleading he does on behalf of his day job is to assure us that that the "ideas and attitudes presented are shared by a solid majority of Americans."

He takes up the popular complaint that our political system is "broken" and that political "dialogue" is really aimed at dividing and conquering the public. He says that "all" Americans (once you round up, I suppose) "believe we can do better."

According to Rasmussen, American politics is broken because politicians of both parties have lost sight of something important. After the last presidential election, he explains, Democrats argued over how far left they could govern the country. Republicans and some pundits tried to counter that they would fail because this is

really a "center-right nation," and needs to be governed from that perspective. "Both perspectives are wrong," he avers. "The American people don't want to be governed from the left, the right, or the center. The American people want to govern themselves." He invokes the Declaration of Independence and Alexis de Tocqueville, as all would-be civic reformers must. The French observer marveled at the ability of "Americans of all ages, conditions, and dispositions" in the 1830s to form seemingly spontaneous associations "of a thousand kinds" to deal with collective problems. Explains Rasmussen, "this American trait was radically different from the world [de Tocqueville] knew. In France or England, he observed, when something needed to be done, the government or a person of noble rank would be asked to do it."

But 1776 or the 1830s were a long time ago. Has that American instinct toward self government persisted? Rasmussen argues that it has. In this present century, Americans do not often dwell on "the virtues of self-governance. Instead, we live them. Our society and daily life is still based upon those concepts so eloquently articulated long ago." In his telling, Americans are not anarchists but they think that the government should form only a small part of our larger society. Americans would far

prefer to govern ourselves, for the most part, through volunteerism and the normal back-and-forth of commerce. Is he right about that? Is Rasmussen expressing his own preference or is he speaking up for "ideas and attitudes" that are "shared by a solid majority of Americans" in his call for a return to self-government from our current big government policies? One test case would be Social Security. Rasmussen writes that while the political class has so far "failed to come up with a solution" to the looming entitlement crisis, "the American people have been dealing with the reality before them for years rather than waiting for somebody else." They have set up 401(k) accounts, started second businesses as fall-back options, delayed retirement, and in hundreds of other ways factored in the real possibility that they won't be able to rely upon government largesse in the future.

These prudent actions now, Rasmussen hopes, "will make Social Security less essential in the future." Of course, this will come at a steep and unfair price. The current generation of younger workers "will be the sandwich generation and pay for two generations worth of retirement -- our own and our parents."

A huge problem that Rasmussen is up against in arguing for greater self-governance is that the political trends have been running the other way. □

En Colombia

Empate técnico Santos-Mockus en encuesta electoral

BOGOTA (AP) - La disputa por la presidencia de Colombia, según una encuesta registra un empate técnico entre los candidatos Juan Manuel Santos, con 35%, y Antanas Mockus, 34%, pero Mockus ganaría en una segunda ronda con el 48%, según datos publicados el domingo.

Aunque Santos aventaja por un punto a Mockus, la firma Ipsos-Napoleón Franco, considera que hay un empate por el margen de error observado del 3,5%. El sondeo fue realizado entre 1.202 entrevistados en 36 municipios, incluidas las 13 principales ciudades. Mockus sería el ganador con un 48% sobre el 41% de Santos en caso de ir a una segunda vuelta que se llevaría a cabo el 20 de junio, es decir tres

semanas después de la primera votación el 30 de mayo.

Santos, aspirante por el Partido de la U, afecto al presidente Alvaro Uribe, declaró al telenoticiero RCN que recibía la muestra “con el ánimo de que estamos de último para trabajar más y más. Las tendencias van en la dirección correcta”.

En tanto, Mockus al mismo noticiero le dijo que “volvimos a una situación de empate... eso ayuda a que nadie se duerma sobre los laureles”.

Los candidatos son seguidos de Noemí Sanín con el 8% por el Partido Conservador; Rafael Pardo, del Partido Liberal con un 4%; Gustavo Petro del Polo Democrático Alternativo, de oposición con el 4% y Germán Vargas

Lleras, de Cambio Radical con el 3%. Se calcula que habría una votación en blanco del 3% del censo electoral que es de cerca de 30 millones de votantes.

Ipsos cree que el 9% aún no sabe por quien votaría, mientras que los índices de abstención que históricamente han sido del 50% podrían bajar.

El estudio contratado por la Revista Semana, RCN radio y televisión y la emisora FM se realizó del 4 al 6 de mayo.

Mockus, puntea en la medición con el 59% de imagen favorable, seguido de Santos con el 52%, mientras que Sanín tendría el 45%, Vargas Lleras el 35%, Pardo el 29%, Petro el 22 y los otros tres candidatos entre el 6 y el 3%.



Juan Manuel Santos. REUTERS/Jose Miguel Gomez/Archivo

El 62% de los entrevistados influido de ninguna forma en señaló que los debates no han su intención de votar. □

Huelga en Bolivia comienza sin fuerza

LA PAZ (AP) - La huelga y marcha convocadas por la Central Obrera Boliviana (COB) por mejoras salariales comenzó con escasa fuerza el lunes, mientras el gobierno se esforzaba por abrir una negociación con los sectores movilizados.

Obreros de la mayor mina estatal paralizaron labores el lunes pero estaban en asamblea analizando la situación, dijo a la AP el dirigente del gremio Guido Mitma. No estaba claro si los casi 4.000 mineros de la mina de estaño de Huanuni al sur de La Paz, se unirán al paro indefinido.

Maestros de escuelas fiscales y sanitarios de sectores públicos anunciaron su adhesión a la protesta que el lunes no se hacía sentir. Organizaciones campesinas afines al gobierno anticiparon que no respaldan el paro y que apuestan por un diálogo, según dijo la dirigente cocalera, Leonilda Zurita.

El conflicto social puso de manifestó una abierta división entre los sindicatos que apoyan al gobierno y otros que toman distancia.

La huelga indefinida con marcha fue convocada por un incremento salarial superior al 5% decretado por el presidente Evo Morales, una nueva ley de jubilación y por la reactivación del aparato productivo para generar empleo, dijo Mitma.

Poco más de un centenar de dirigentes de varios sindicatos se concentraban en una localidad altiplánica distante a 160 kilómetros al sur para iniciar una marcha hacia La Paz que puede demorar cuatro o cinco días.

Se trata de la peor ola de protestas a poco más de cien días después que Morales asumiera su segunda gestión hasta el 2015. A diferencias de otras que estaban lideradas por la oposición derechista, las manifestaciones actuales vienen de grupos sindicales afines al gobierno.

Habitualmente, las protestas comienzan con escasa fuerza y van creciendo en la medida en que la marcha que las acompaña se acerca a La Paz. Otro conflicto de campesinos y pobladores de una localidad al norte de La Paz, que cortó durante doce días una vital ruta, concluyó el fin de semana con una intervención policial y la muerte de dos estudiantes y ocho agentes heridos en enfrentamientos. □

ONU nombra a presidente de Brasil “campeón” de combate al hambre



magen de archivo del presidente de Brasil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, junto a sus pares de Rusia y China, en el palacio Itamaraty en Brasilia. Abr 15 2010. El presidente de Brasil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, recibió el lunes el título de ‘campeón mundial’ en el combate al hambre y la desnutrición infantil por parte del Programa Mundial de Alimentos de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU). REUTERS/Paulo Whitaker/ARCHIVO

BRASILIA (Reuters) - El presidente de Brasil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, recibió el lunes el título de “campeón mundial” en el combate al hambre y la desnutrición infantil por parte del Programa Mundial de Alimentos de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU).

La directora ejecutiva del programa, Josette Sheeran, dijo que el plan Hambre Cero de Brasil es una estrategia “holística” y que otro llamado Bolsa Familia inspira a familias brasileñas a tener responsabilidad.

Sheeran mencionó la lista de la revista TIME en la cual Lula aparece como uno de los líderes más influyentes del planeta.

La funcionaria citó, incluso, una frase del presidente de Estados Unidos, Barack Obama, cuando afirmó que el mandatario de Brasil era el político más popular del mundo. Sheeran visitó programas para el combate al hambre en los alrededores de Brasilia y se mostró complacida con el trabajo realizado por las autoridades brasileñas. □



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